

# THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 118, Vol. V.

Saturday, April 1, 1865.

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JOHN R. SEELEY, M.A., Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Laws.

CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.

March 1, 1865.

**ROYAL LITERARY FUND.**  
THE SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER of the Corporation will take place at the ALBION TAVERN, Aldersgate Street, on Wednesday, the 10th of May. His Grace THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF YORK in the Chair. The Stewards will be announced in future advertisements.

OCTAVIAN BLEWITT, Secretary.

**CAPTAIN R. F. BURTON.—THE COUNCIL OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON** have determined to celebrate the election into the Society of Five Hundred Fellows, by giving a public Farewell Dinner to this distinguished Anthropologist and Traveller on TUESDAY, APRIL 4, at ST. JAMES'S HALL, at Half-past Six o'Clock precisely.

The Right Hon. the Lord STANLEY, M.P., F.R.S., F.A.S.L., will take the chair. Tickets, 25s. each.

GENTLEMEN wishing to pay a mark of respect to Captain Burton before his departure for South America, may obtain tickets on application to the Chairman of the Dinner Committee, Anthropological Society of London, 4 St. Martin's Place, W.C.

**THE WORCESTER SOCIETY OF ARTS.**  
TENTH EXHIBITION, AUGUST, 1865.—WORKS OF ART intended for this Exhibition must be addressed to the Secretary, and delivered at the Society's Rooms, Pierpoint Street, Worcester, or to Mr. Joseph Green, of 14 Charles Street, Middlesex Hospital, London, on or before the 10th of August next.

Further Particulars, and a copy of the Notice to Artists, may be obtained upon application to

EDMOND DE POIX-TYREL, Secretary.

42 Britannia Square, Worcester, March 17, 1865.

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# THE READER.

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To enable our readers to understand the extent of the debt of gratitude they have thus incurred, we will state briefly the actual condition of the law of libel, as far as it relates to the alterations proposed by these zealous legal reformers, so that they may be in a position to judge for themselves whether such changes are likely to contribute to the public advantage.

Libel, or the malicious publication, by writing, printing, &c., of defamatory matter against any individual, has always been carefully distinguished from mere oral slander—a distinction which, whether we regard the comparative deliberation with which the two offences are likely to be committed, or the consequences which may be expected to be entailed upon the party injured, seems to rest upon the plainest dictates of common sense. Furthermore, as the wrong is inflicted by him who perpetrates and disseminates the injurious imputation by publication, he alone is the person whom the law holds responsible for the wrong done.

As in the case of assault, libel is regarded as a crime, to be punished by a criminal prosecution, or as a private injury, to be compensated in damages. If the offender be proceeded against criminally, he is liable to fine or imprisonment, but he can defend himself successfully by showing either the absence of malice, or that the imputation was true, and that it was for the public benefit that it should be generally known.

If, on the other hand, the individual libelled prefer to treat the matter as a civil injury, he can proceed to make the publisher of the libel responsible to him in damages; but he will not be entitled to compensation, either in damages or costs, if the defendant can prove that the statement complained of is true, or, if not true in fact, that he had good reason to believe it to be so, and that it was not malicious, but a fair comment upon a matter of public interest, and warranted by the occasion. In the case of newspapers, a still further protection is afforded; for if a libellous assertion should appear in one, and an action be brought against its owner, it is sufficient for him to prove that it was inserted without actual malice or gross negligence, that he has published an apology, and paid a sum of money into court to cover the amount of harm inflicted, to escape from further liability; for if, under such circumstances, the plaintiff

should be advised to continue the litigation, he does so at the risk of being obliged to pay all the costs of the action, if the jury should be of opinion that the amount of money so paid in was an adequate compensation.

As to the criminal form of procedure, the only changes which Sir Colman O'Loughlen would introduce are, that no private prosecutor should be at liberty to set the law in motion without the consent of the Attorney-General, and that any speaker at a public meeting, whose speech may happen to contain defamation, and to be reported in a newspaper, shall be as liable to punishment as if he had himself been guilty of the publication. The latter provision contains a most important and far-reaching modification of the law, to which we shall refer when we come to a similar change with reference to libel as a civil injury. But, with regard to the former, it may be sufficient to ask why in libel alone is an injured person to have no redress before the ordinary tribunals unless he can obtain the sanction of the Attorney-General, whose functions are in no sense judicial; and further, why the Attorney-General—that is the Government of the day—is to be entrusted with such an extraordinary power over the public press as that of keeping back or launching at pleasure any number of criminal proceedings which may be brought against them?

But the energies of Sir C. O'Loughlen, as an innovator upon the law, are not limited to the narrow sphere of the law of libel, for, in a single paragraph immediately following the one just adverted to, he has introduced, as it were by the way, two of the most radical changes ever suggested in our criminal jurisprudence. He proposes that, in all criminal trials for libel, the prisoner shall be at liberty to offer himself as a witness; and further, that the husband or wife of the prisoner shall be admissible for the same purpose. Whether such modifications would be for the better or for the worse, it is not necessary to discuss here; but if they are to be made, they should be discussed upon general principles, and brought about by a general enactment relating to all criminal cases, and not smuggled into our code piecemeal, and with reference to matters with which they have no special connexion.

The framers of the new measure, however, contemplate far more important alterations by those parts of their bill which deal with the subject when regarded as a civil injury. As we have said, the rule of law hitherto established is, that the person who by publication actually gives permanency and diffusion to injurious statements, shall be held responsible for what are the necessary consequences of his own act. But, by the provisions of the new bill, absolute immunity is secured to any proprietor of a newspaper who can show that an assertion, no matter how injurious, which may be printed in his columns was actually made by some speaker at some 'public meeting lawfully assembled for a lawful purpose, open to reporters for the press,' and that the report was published 'bona-fide, without malice, and in the ordinary course of business.'

At first sight, it may seem that something can be said in favour of such a change. The owner of a newspaper, it might be suggested, when publishing the proceedings of a public meeting, has only to report the facts. It is a fact that the libellous matter was uttered on the occasion alleged. He did not make the statement himself; he has merely recorded it without any malice, and in the ordinary course of his business, and therefore has not done anything by which he can be justly rendered obnoxious to punishment.

Before discussing this view of the question, it may be as well to call attention to a misconception which exists in many minds, and which, if uncorrected, might lead to very erroneous conclusions. We so often hear the phrases, the 'duty of journalists,' 'in discharge of our public duty,' &c.; that by the constant association of the words

many persons have been led to think that in publishing a report of what may have happened at a public meeting, the proprietor of a newspaper is discharging a public duty as much as a judge in sentencing a culprit to death, or a policeman in apprehending a burglar. But such an idea is an entire misapprehension. The owners of newspapers have discovered that people are willing to purchase such intelligence, and they are perfectly ready, if they see their way to a profit upon the transaction, to furnish the required article. The undertaking is a purely commercial one from beginning to end. Such information and such speeches alone are published as will sell, and the 'duty' of the journalist, like that of the producer of any other object of commerce, is merely to furnish his customers with that which he professes to supply. The law, therefore, has a right to require of him, as of any other manufacturer, for his own advantage, that he shall so conduct his business as not to cause injury to third parties. If the journalist is to be regarded as discharging a public function, he should, like other public functionaries, be subject to Government control. If his newspaper be a public department, it must be open to State inspection. But such a state of things would be repudiated, and rightly so, not more by the public than by the journals themselves. The paper is a private mercantile speculation, and must be carried on upon the ordinary principles, and be subject to the ordinary responsibilities, incident to every other commercial pursuit.

Now what is the true state of the case with regard to the publication in the public prints of some calumnious assertion which may have been made of an individual at a public meeting? It cannot be questioned that the injurious results of such an assertion will be enormously aggravated if it be reproduced in type the next morning, and made known to all the world in the columns of a journal. Those who know most about public meetings would perhaps care the least for any observation that might be made at them if the matter rested there. But the case is entirely altered when a damaging statement is perpetuated, and brought to the knowledge, not only of any stranger who may care to read it, but a man's most intimate friends, or of every member of his family. The difference in the amount of wrong done is almost incalculable. And who is responsible for this? Surely not the speaker, for if his words had never travelled beyond the spot in which they were uttered, they would have done little harm. Plainly, it is the journalist, who has inflicted the aggravated injury—not in the discharge of any public duty, but, to use Sir C. O'Loughlen's own words, in 'the ordinary course of business,' and for his own profit. Upon what principle is the owner of newspapers alone to be released from the exercise of any discretion in the prosecution of his calling, and to be exempted from the operation of the rule which applies to all others, that he must so conduct it as not to inflict wanton injury upon his neighbours?

But if the object proposed to be attained by this alteration of the law be so unsatisfactory, the language by which it is sought to be carried out is still more so. What is a 'public meeting,' and how is it to be discriminated from a private assembly? How are those who attend it to know that it is 'lawfully assembled,' and by what tests are they to determine whether it be for a 'lawful purpose?' Is the Temple Discussion Forum, of French Imperial notoriety, such, and would it be perfectly safe to promulgate its debates in any periodical publication? Again, what is meant by 'open to reporters for the press,' and who are 'reporters?' Is any one who chooses to take notes, and to communicate them to any paper, to be entitled to that designation? or is it to be limited to the recognized officials of some established journal? How is any one who may address the meeting to know whether the meeting is 'open' to them or not? It is true, these are questions of detail;



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but when it is remembered that it is by sentences so worded that the utterer of printed scandal is to be protected from any legal consequences, they become of grave importance. It is fearful to contemplate the enormous bills of costs that would have to be incurred by unhappy litigants until the meaning of such vague phrases, of not one of which do the framers condescend to furnish any explanation, has been determined by judicial definition.

The next step, however, in the process of 'the amendment of the law of libel' is still more portentous. Hitherto, as has been said already, as the damage produced is attributable to the publication, it has been thought right that the person who actually inflicted that damage should be liable to make it good, either in purse or person. But the law reformers, by a somewhat Irish method of reasoning, have come to the conclusion that the legal consequences of the wrong done should be borne by the person who did not commit it. If their bill should ever become law, the fines, imprisonment, and damages incurred by the publication of any defamatory matter uttered at a public meeting are to be visited upon the speaker. The clause which contains this notable amendment is as follows:—

'Any person who shall speak at a public meeting lawfully assembled for a lawful purpose, open to reporters of the press, any defamatory matter of any other person, which, if written, would amount to a libel, shall be liable, if the same shall be reported in any public newspaper or periodical publication, to be proceeded against by indictment, information, or action, in the same manner and to the same extent as if he had published the same.'

We believe that such a provision, if enacted, would be without parallel in our code. It is literally and simply punishing one man for an offence committed by another, over whom he has no sort of control. The owner of a journal goes to a public meeting in search of anything which may occur which his customers will pay to be informed of. The persons who speak cannot compel him to report any portion of their oratory. They cannot prevent him, if so minded, from reproducing it in its entirety. They may not even be aware of his presence. By his own voluntary act, and for purposes of gain, he prints for the information of all the world an allegation which is calculated to inflict the utmost injury and annoyance upon some perfectly innocent person, but which, if not so published, might never have reached beyond the walls within which it was spoken, and have been forgotten by every one who heard it before the next morning. Who is to pay the penalty? Not the man who gives the sting to the imputation, but the speaker whose act was comparatively harmless, and who had no more to do with its appearance in print than any member of the audience.

Nor let it be supposed that such a provision would tend in any way to promote freedom of discussion; on the contrary, it would most seriously limit it. As things stand at present, every speaker, no matter how unpractised, who may have to address an assembly, knows that if, in the heat of debate or the excitement of contradiction, anything calumnious should escape him, the interest of the newspaper proprietor will prevent it from being reported, and that any slight mischief which it may have occasioned can be amply atoned for by private explanation. But the case will be widely different when he knows that every word, no matter how unpremeditated, may be immediately stereotyped, and expose him to the gravest penalties. Let any one reflect upon what daily occurs during the heated discussions at meetings of railway proprietors, joint-stock companies, municipal and other local bodies, to say nothing of electioneering and other more turbulent assemblages, and then ask himself what would be the effects of a law which would enable a third person, with perfect safety to himself, to register every unguarded expression, and thereby expose the

speakers to the terrors of the law, and how far the fair freedom of discussion would be promoted by such a measure. A very short experience of its working would probably induce most prudent persons to make and abide by a resolution never to open their mouths in public, except, perhaps, in the serene altitudes of a Social Science Congress.

There is yet another and a grave alteration projected in dealing with libel as a civil injury. As said above, the law protects the journalist if he has good reason to believe that the defamatory matter is true, and if he inserted it without malice, and as a *bona-fide* comment upon a matter of public interest. It is now, however, proposed no longer to require that the defendant shall show the reasons which led him to believe the calumnious matter to be true, but simply to accept the statement of his belief that it was so. In other words, to substitute a metaphysical inquiry into the particular state of his mind upon a given subject, for proof of such matters of fact as should reasonably have induced an ordinary man to arrive at such a conclusion. To allow of such a defence would be to give but a slender protection to individual reputation. Considering how prone many men, and those by no means the worst, are to think evil of those who may be opposed to them, the mere fact of belief in any scandalous allegation is a very imperfect justification for disseminating it generally.

Upon a review, then, of the chief modifications which Parliament is asked to make in the law as it now stands, it would seem that, by a rare combination of unwise changes, they seem to be curiously adapted to produce the most opposite, and even apparently inconsistent, evils. Whilst, on the one hand, they will confer a most questionable immunity from responsibility upon the journalist, they will, with the most obvious injustice, extend almost indefinitely the penalties of the law over all members of the public who may venture to address their fellow subjects. Again, while tending seriously to endanger freedom of discussion in one direction, they open a wide field for the dissemination of calumny in the other. If it were possible seriously to contemplate their becoming law, the prospect would be sufficiently alarming. We have, however, no such fears, and we can only hope that their originators will have better success when they set themselves to the task of redressing the wrongs of Erin.

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

### HISTORY OF JULIUS CAESAR.

*Histoire de Jules César.* Vol. I. (Paris: Plon. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.)

THE second chapter of the first book of this work treats of the Establishment of the Consular Republic (244-416). The third chapter is on the Conquest of Italy (416-488). The fourth is entitled the Prosperity of the Basin of the Mediterranean before the Punic Wars. The fifth chapter treats of the Punic Wars, and Wars of Macedonia and Asia (488-621). The sixth and last chapter is on the Gracchi, Marius, and Sulla (621-676). The dates are those of the year of the City.

It is very difficult to give a fair estimate of this part of the work. An enormous amount of matter is crowded into a short compass. The facts are often imperfectly stated, and sometimes inaccurately; and, as in all rapid sketches and abridgments, there is sometimes a want of precision that will very much perplex those who wish to learn Roman history without much trouble. The best test of the value of the work would be the judgment of a careful reader and a sensible man, who has not studied the history of Rome. When he had read these five chapters, he might ask himself what he had learned. He would certainly have a general, and, on the whole, a true conception of the growth of the Roman State, and of the causes of its dissolution; and that is something. But if he wished to know more, he

would have to go through a laborious, and, perhaps, a less agreeable study. There is no royal method of learning or teaching hard things without hard labour. The difficulty of studying this work in the English version is increased by the imperfection of the translation, which is often obscure where the original is perfectly clear.

The chapter on the Establishment of the Consular Republic is not a history. It is a discussion somewhat in the style of 'Machiavelli's Discourses on Livy.' The author says that 'aristocratic government has this advantage over monarchy, that it is more immutable in its duration, more constant in its designs, more faithful to traditions, and that it can dare everything, because where a great number share the responsibility no one is individually responsible.' The want of individual responsibility is, indeed, a very dubious kind of advantage; but it is certain that this aristocratic government made the Romans a conquering people, and that conquest finally brought on the ruin of the Republic. The constitution of the Senate was the life and power of Rome. It was composed of men, as the author remarks, trained in the combats of the popular assemblies as well as in the field, and disciplined in the business of civil life. The senators were administrators, debaters, commanders of armies, and popular orators. Arms and eloquence, the talent of the soldier, of the speaker, and the practical man, were the means by which a Roman rose to power. A consul exercised almost unlimited authority during his command of an army. He was, indeed, accountable for what he did, but not till his term of office expired. He only held his power for a year, and the short duration of office was the security of the State. At a later period of the Commonwealth, when men were in command of armies for several years in foreign parts, the ruin of the Constitution was already near.

The author points out very clearly the disadvantage of two consuls being annually elected. The reason for making two chief magistrates on the expulsion of the kings could only be the jealousy of power in one man's hands. It was not thought enough to limit the possession of power to a year: it was considered a further security to divide it. It would be difficult to show that any good ever came from this duality, but it is easy to multiply instances of the mischief that it did. The author says that the consuls were, perhaps, originally 'nominated' (*désignés*) by the Senate alone; and he refers to Appian (B.C. i. 1), a passage which does not mean what he supposes; and even if it did, it could not disprove the undoubted fact that the consuls were always appointed by the Roman electors at the *Comitia Centuriata*.

Power in the hands of an aristocratic body will be abused, and so it was at Rome. The remedy was to create, for the protection of the people, magistrates of their own, *Tribuni Plebis*. Such a contrivance plainly shows that there must have been a great necessity for some power to check the tyranny of the aristocracy. The history of the Roman tribunate is the history of the struggle of the popular element against an aristocracy—the history of the growth of a power which finally destroyed itself.

The foundation of the Roman Commonwealth was democratic, for the chief magistrates in the Republic were appointed by annual elections. During the long contest, which placed the aristocratic and the democratic elements in the State nearly on a footing of equality, Rome was internally turbulent, but abroad she was strong. The author points out the elements of dissolution which are perceptible at the beginning of the fifth century of Rome. These elements, in his opinion, are electoral corruption, the law of high treason (*loi de lèse-majesté*), slavery, the increase of the poor class, the agrarian laws, and the question of debt. Electoral corruption was, no doubt, a cause of mischief at Rome, and the Romans in vain attempted to cure the evil by laws against bribery; but electoral corruption alone will never ruin a



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nation. As to the law of high treason, there was none properly so called in the early times of the Republic. The offence to which the author alludes, and which he properly names *Perduellio*, meant any act of a citizen that was injurious to the State. An instance of a trial for *Perduellio* is that of a commander (*Liv. xxvi. 3*) being tried by the Popular Assembly for the loss of his army. Such prosecutions are necessary for the maintenance of liberty, as Machiavelli shows (*Discorsi i. c. 7*). In some modern States a great offender is not so easily brought to just punishment as he was at Rome.

The increase of slaves in Italy in the later part of the Republic was a real cause of the decline of the Roman State; but it cannot be admitted that slavery increased because slave labour was cheaper than free labour. This was not the cause of the great increase of slaves. The matter would require a long discussion. As to the agrarian laws, or the laws for the distribution of land taken in war, and the resumption of such parts as were occupied by the rich, they were, as Livy remarks, a constant source of agitation, and certainly one of the causes of the civil wars. But the author neither here, nor in any part of his work, has fully discussed this difficult subject. Indeed, it was impossible to do it within his narrow limits. The law of debtor and creditor was at one time severe and most impolitic; but it was gradually modified. A full examination of the question would require a small volume; but this cannot, strictly speaking, be reckoned among one of the causes of the dissolution of the Constitution. There are debts in all countries, and there is a good deal of difficulty in modern times in settling accounts between him who owes and him who claims a debt.

The conquest of Italy (chapter iii.) was the greatest work of Rome. It proved the superiority of the institutions of the City on the Tiber over those of all the Italian States. The author says that Rome 'made war not to destroy, but to conserve, and, after the material conquest, always set herself to accomplish the moral conquest of the vanquished.' This is not the opinion which most men would form. Rome did, in a manner, Romanize the Peninsula, but she desolated it first; and her direct object was her own dominion, not the good of her subjects. It is true that the Romans showed great tact in their behaviour to conquered peoples, whom they treated with various degrees of lenity or severity, but with a steady view to their own interests and the security of their dominion.

The author has attempted to explain the relations in which different parts of Italy stood to Rome at the commencement of the fifth century; Italy here meaning not the whole Peninsula, but the part south of the Rubicon on the east, and the Macra on the west. The author, indeed, maintains in a note (p. 66) that the Macra was not the limit of Italy and Cisalpine Gallia under the Republic, but his argument does not appear to be conclusive. However, the Italy of this time excludes Cisalpine Gaul, whatever may have been the exact limits of the two divisions. The author has correctly described the nature of the Roman and Latin colonies, by means of which the acquisitions of Rome were maintained and her dominion secured. The relation to Rome of the Italian towns, which were neither Roman nor Latin colonies, but yet owed a kind of allegiance, is not so easy to fix. If those who know nothing of the matter shall be able to collect it clearly from what is said, they may be satisfied. The whole of this chapter is worth reading, and, if it be open to criticism, as it undoubtedly is, it will give to a careful reader some notion of the means by which Rome effected the subjugation of Italy.

The fourth chapter gives a sketch of the countries in the basin of the Mediterranean, and their condition at the end of 488. It contains an immense number of facts, not always selected with judgment, and many statements founded on ancient authorities, which cannot be always trusted. Indeed, large and extravagant numbers are generally

accepted as if they were true. The design is rather ambitious; and a reader not well acquainted with antiquity may be almost bewildered at the contemplation of such prosperity having once existed in places which are now either poor or in a state of desolation. It is true, however, that many parts of the Mediterranean coast were once flourishing, and are now reduced to a wretched condition, owing to various causes, some of which were at work before 488. The extension of the Roman dominion completed the ruin that had commenced, as, for example, in Greece. Where there is nothing to say of the prosperity of some of those countries which come under review, there is added, for the purpose of enlivening the narrative, something about the arts and the great works in sculpture and architecture. But for want of care, or other causes, errors have slipped in. We are told that the Parthenon and Propylaea of Athens were the masterpieces of Phidias; but we cannot ascribe the buildings to the sculptor Phidias, when the architects of the Parthenon were Callicrates and Ictinus, or, it may be, Ictinus alone, as some ancient writers mention only his name. The architect of the Propylaea was Mnesicles. The assertion that Corinth contained 460,000 slaves is incredible. There is a reference to Pausanias to prove the fact, but it ought to be a reference to Athenaeus. The famous painting of Dionysius by Aristides was sold, as the author says, at the capture of Corinth, but he should have added that Mummius would not let King Attalus II., the purchaser, have it. The picture was sent to Rome, and Strabo saw it there, in the Temple of Ceres. The note contains a reference to Strabo, but we conclude that the author did not look at the passage. In 'the famous portico of the Persians at Sparta, the columns in white marble represented the illustrious persons among the vanquished' (p. 127). The reader may be puzzled to know what kind of columns these were. He may guess that they were like Atlantes or Caryatides, but the passage of Pausanias, which is referred to, shows that the statues were placed on the columns. It is said (p. 143) that 'Sulla's soldiers took in the sanctuary of the Cabiri (in Samothrace) an ornament of the value of a thousand talents (232,800*l.*)'. But it was the pirates who plundered this temple, as Appian says in the passage which the author refers to, not of 'an ornament,' but of all the valuable decorations; worth a thousand talents, says Appian, prudently, 'as it was supposed.' A reference is given to Strabo, to prove that 'silk stuffs' were sent from the frontiers of China, which reached 'the Tyrian Sea, Mesopotamia, and Pontus.' The reader will be fortunate if he can make use of the reference, and more fortunate still if he can find the fact by the aid of the true reference (Strabo, p. 693, ed. Casaub.). Again, 'Polybius says (xiii. 2) that the pay of the officers in the army of Ptolemaeus II. of Egypt was 3*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* a-day.' Those were good times for officers; but a study of the passage will show that a particular case has been misunderstood for a general rule. Virgil and Statius are cited to prove that the Temple of Venus at Paphos contained a hundred altars; and this again is intended as a proof of the wealth of the island. The following is an example of vagueness and inaccuracy (p. 142): 'The magnificence of the triumph of Manlius, and the reflections of Livy, compared with the testimony of Herodotus, reveal all the splendour of the kingdom of Pergamus.' Any man of sense may see that nothing is distinctly affirmed here; and those who know something of ancient history will not look in Herodotus for anything about the kingdom of Pergamum, which did not exist until more than a century and a-half after his death.

If it should be said that this is minute criticism, made for the purpose of finding fault, the answer is that the chapter is full of minute statements which invite criticism; that the reviewer would have been more pleased to find them all true than a great many of them false; that he has selected only

a few of the errors; and he recommends the author to revise this chapter carefully.

The fifth chapter contains the Punic Wars, and all the Wars of the Republic, until the acquisition of the kingdom of Pergamum. These great events are compressed into seventy pages in the translation. There are many good remarks, but such an epitome cannot be exact, and it will give little information to those who do not know the facts. Among the results of the First Punic War and the Roman occupation of Sicily, it is said, were the introduction of Stoicism and Epicurism into Italy by the Greeks of Sicily, a statement which appears to have no foundation. Epicurus died at Athens only a few years before the beginning of the First Punic War. The sketch of Hannibal's invasion of North Italy, through the Alps, is as unsatisfactory as it can be. It is contained in a few loose sentences. But Hannibal is briefly and justly defended for not attacking Rome after the battle of Cannae. He had no means of taking strong places. He showed his ability by maintaining himself sixteen years in Italy with little help from home, but he had ceased to be formidable before he was recalled to defend his own country against a Roman invasion. The reader will find some judicious remarks, and some statements which are not quite exact, in a brief summary of the results of the Second Punic War. The energy and resolution of the Romans during this great contest have never been better portrayed than in a short, homely sentence of Polybius: 'The Romans are most formidable, both as a nation and as men, when real danger surrounds them.'

The reader will be perplexed at finding, in the table of contents of the translation, 'War against Persia,' and again in the margin of p. 209. The same 'War against Persia' occurs again in the text twice (pp. 217, 226). This is the translation of 'Guerre contre Persée,' which word Persée certainly bears some resemblance to Persia; and yet the translator knew that the author was writing about the war with Perseus, king of Macedonia. This is mere carelessness. In another place (p. 28), the translator changes the consuls' 'fasces' (faisceaux) into their 'fasciae,' breeches, or whatever they were. After the defeat of Perseus, Macedonia was divided into four provinces, which had no political union. The inhabitants of the several parts could only intermarry in their own province, and a man in one province could not hold land in another. It was a piece of old Roman policy. The text says, 'By the law imposed on these new provinces, all marriages and all exchange of immoveable property was interdicted between the citizens of different States, and the imports reduced one-half.' The reader will not make much of this, but by changing 'imports' into taxes (impôts), he will get rid of one difficulty.

The sixth chapter treats of the Gracchi, Marius, and Sulla, in about sixty pages. It is possible in this space to state the nature of the reforms of the Gracchi, and of the contest between the factions of Marius and Sulla, but it is impossible, at the same time, to give a sketch of the political events. The reader, however, may obtain from this chapter a tolerably correct view of the great questions which agitated Italy from B.C. 133 to B.C. 78, or the death of Sulla, the greatest of all the Romans of the Republican period save Caesar, and perhaps the worst. If military talent, great intellectual powers and acquirements, undaunted courage, inflexible will, and a clear and just judgment make a man great, Sulla deserves the name. He was a reformer, too, after his fashion, though his work did not long survive him.

But it is absolutely necessary to warn the reader that he must not take all the facts to be true. If he will look at the original authors referred to, he will be convinced that this warning is necessary. The author has the merit of seeing that the deposition of the Tribune Octavius by T. Gracchus was illegal, which some writers have not seen; and he justly remarks that while T. Gracchus was



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only intending a reform, he had unconsciously commenced a revolution. But he has no authority for attributing to T. Gracchus the famous passages from two speeches which Gellius (x. 3) attributes to C. Gracchus; nor for saying that at the election of C. Gracchus to the tribunate 'many gave their votes even from the roofs;' for, as they voted by ballot, it would hardly be possible to manage the business from the top of a house. A reference to Plutarch's Life of C. Gracchus will set this matter right. Nor is there authority for many other things in this chapter in the way in which they are stated. When a man finds much fault, he exposes himself to the charge of ill-nature or malevolence. The reviewer hopes that he may escape this charge, which he is conscious that he does not deserve. The following extract will show that he is justified in giving the reader of the first six chapters a warning against trusting all the author's statements:—

A fact which arose out of the funeral of Marius paints the manners of the epoch, and the character of the revolution which had just been effected. An extraordinary sacrifice was wanted for his tomb. The pontiff (Pontifex Maximus) Q. Mucius Scaevola, one of the most respectable old men of the nobility, was chosen as the victim. Conducted in pomp before the funeral pile of the conqueror of the Cimbri, he was struck by the sacrificer, who, with an inexperienced hand, plunged the knife into his throat without killing him. Restored to life, Scaevola was cited in judgment by a tribune of the people, for not having received the blow fairly. (Cicero, Speech for Roscius Amerinus, 12—Valerius Maximus IX., xi. 2. (P. 281.)

It is past all understanding how a man who knows as much as the author does of Roman affairs could have written this monstrous story. The head of religion at Rome made a victim at the funeral of Marius; and, after all, escaping, because the first blow did not kill him! The simple fact is that the villain C. Flavius Fimbria attempted to assassinate Scaevola at the funeral of Marius.

The translation has been used and referred to in this notice, because it will be read more than the original. It requires much correction. The translator often follows the French idiom and not the English. For example, he translates 'hommes d'élite' 'men of choice' (p. 29); and 'le droit de cité' 'right of city' (p. 100). According to this way of using English words in French combinations, he would translate 'homme de bien' 'man of good,' and let his readers find out the meaning. He translates 'réunion' by 'reunion,' and 'toute communauté politique' by 'all political communalty.' Sometimes he entirely spoils the meaning, as when he translates 'cette concurrence des plébéiens' by 'this concurrence of the plebeians,' instead of 'rivalry;' and 'la translation des jugemens' by 'the translation of judgments,' which a reader unacquainted with Roman matters will understand just as little as the translator understood the original. The 'senatus consultus' (p. 51) is a trifle. It may keep company with the consuls' 'fasciae,' with 'a port skilfully disposed' (habilement disposé), and 'fish, objects of research' (poissons recherchés). We are told (p. 158) that 'the right of anchorage produced (at Rhodes) a revenue of a million of drachmas a-year.' The French is quite intelligible, 'droit de mouillage,' harbour dues. The 'laws against solicitation' are occasionally mentioned (les lois contre la brigue), but who will know that the laws against bribery are meant, if he does not know more than the translator? Nor will 'examples of prevarication' (p. 254) be understood by any man who knows only the English sense of the word. In p. 231 the speech of Nabis to the Roman consul is made unintelligible by 'l'estimation du revenu' being translated 'regard for the pay,' instead of the 'rating of a man's property.' Sulla, before returning to Italy, wrote a letter, which 'the Senate ventured to receive;' but some readers will hardly venture to say that they understand this. Those who know French may guess that the original is 'osa recevoir.' This unlucky verb is the cause of another blunder (p. 217): 'the generals dared

no longer to obey,' which will puzzle an Englishman when he reads the rest of the sentence. It is said (p. 219) that 'pretended reformers . . . made laws.' The original expresses the correct fact, 'faisaient rendre des lois:' but the verb 'faire' here and elsewhere is treated as badly as 'oser.' More might easily be said, but this is enough to prove that the translation requires revision.

## RESEARCHES INTO THE EARLY HISTORY OF MANKIND.

*Researches into the Early History of Mankind, and the Development of Civilization By Edward Burnet Tylor (John Murray.)*

THE early history of mankind is a subject so interesting to man, the bright gleam of light which has recently been thrown upon it has attracted so much attention and given so much encouragement, that we may reasonably expect many books on the subject. Some, no doubt, will be of little merit; others, like the one now before us, the result of much thought and conscientious research.

The principal subjects of which the author treats are gesture-language and word-language; picture-writing and word-writing; images and names; growth and decline of culture; the stone-age; fire, cooking, and vessels; remarkable customs; traditions and myths.

In the chapter on the gesture-language he gives a very interesting account of the system pursued by the deaf and dumb. It has been questioned by some whether thought would be possible without speech; if the word is understood in its usual sense; the deaf and dumb are a sufficient proof that this is the case; nevertheless, how much the cultivation of thought depends on artificial methods of expression, we may see from the fact that Laura Bridgman dreamt with her hands.

An interesting illustration of the perfection attained by the gesture-language is given by Mr. Tylor. John Geale, of Yateley, yeoman, deaf, dumb, and unable to read or write, left a will by which his property was to go to his wife, if she survived him; but if she died first, then to his wife's daughter; or, if his wife's daughter also died during his lifetime, then to her husband; or, if his wife's daughter and her husband both died during his lifetime, then to the children of his wife's daughter and son-in-law. Probate of this curious will was not unnaturally refused by Sir J. P. Wilde. Subsequently, however, on receipt of the following explanation, it was granted:—

The said John Geale first pointed to the said will itself, then he pointed to himself, and then he laid the side of his head upon the palm of his right hand, with his eyes closed, and then lowered his right hand towards the ground, the palm of the same hand being upwards. These latter signs were the usual signs by which he referred to his own death or the decease of some one else. He then touched his trousers pocket (which was the usual sign by which he referred to his money), then he looked all round, and simultaneously raised his arms with a sweeping motion all round (which were the usual signs by which he referred to all his property or all things). He then pointed to his wife, and afterwards touched the ring finger of his left hand, and then placed his right hand across his left arm at the elbow (which latter signs were the usual signs by which he referred to his wife). The signs by which the said testator informed us that his property was to go to his wife's daughter, in case his wife died in his lifetime, were as follows: He first referred to his property, as before, he then touched himself, and pointed to the ring finger of his left hand and crossed his arm as before (which indicated his wife), he then laid the side of his head on the palm of his right hand (with his eyes closed), which indicated his wife's death; he then again, after pointing to his wife's daughter, who was present when the said will was executed, pointed to the ring finger of his left hand, and then placed his right hand across his left arm at the elbow, as before. He then put his forefinger to his mouth, and immediately touched his breast, and moved his arms in such a manner as to indicate a child, which were his usual signs for

indicating his wife's daughter. He always indicated a female by crossing his arm, and a male person by crossing his wrist.

The rest of the will is explained in a similar manner, but we have quoted enough to show the *modus operandi*.

There can be no doubt that for logic and argument, gesture-language is far inferior to word-language. For simple narrative, however, or for appeals to the feelings, in the opinion of Mr. Tylor, the very reverse is the case.

Religious service is performed in signs in many deaf and dumb schools. In the Berlin Institution the simple Lutheran service, a prayer, the Gospel for the day, and a sermon, is acted every Sunday morning in the gesture language, for the children in the school and the deaf and dumb inhabitants of the city, and it is a very remarkable sight. No one could see the parable of the man who left the ninety-nine sheep in the wilderness, and went after that which was lost, or of the woman who lost the one piece of silver, performed in expressive pantomime by a master of the art, without acknowledging that for telling a simple story, and making simple comments on it, spoken language stands far behind acting. The spoken narrative must lose the sudden anxiety of the shepherd when he counts his flock and finds a sheep wanting, his hurried penning up the rest, his running up hill and down dale, and spying backward and forward, his face lighting up when he catches sight of the missing sheep in the distance, his carrying it home in his arms, hugging it as he goes.

We are apt to regard the savage as living in a state of comparative freedom, unfettered by the thousand restraints of civilized life. Never was there a greater mistake. He is ceremonious, full of curious fancies and prejudices, subject to a thousand absurd restraints and useless rules, preyed on by constant fears. The dread of sorcery hangs like a thick cloud over his life, and embitters every pleasure. In India, Australia, and many other countries, a man must not marry a woman whose clan name is the same as his own. Among the Arawaks, a man might not see the face of his mother-in-law; among the Caribs, he dared not speak to any of her relations. In the Feejee Islands brothers and sisters must not eat out of the same dish, or even speak to one another. The tortures which conscientious savages think it right to inflict on themselves are horrible to contemplate; but worst of all, perhaps, is their perpetual dread of sorcery.

The fundamental cause of this is their confusion of subjective and objective relations. Images and idols are to the savage what the doll is to the child. The lowest races of men have no religion; but directly the idea of a God dawns upon them, they endeavour to give it a more definite form, by the assistance of an idol. Thus it is entirely a mistake to regard the worship of idols as the lowest form of religion, or as an unmixed evil. On the contrary, it is at first a step in advance, and only becomes an evil when it is confounded with the idea of which it was the symbol. This is the reason why among the lowest savages Roman Catholicism is so successful. Idols are religious dolls, and tribes in the mental condition of the Brazilian Indians or the Australians cannot realize their ideas without some such assistance. The South Sea Islanders were in a higher condition; idols had already served their purpose, and we find that as a general rule, the Roman Catholic missionaries have had comparatively little success among them. If our missionary societies wish to produce the maximum amount of effect, they should consider these points; they will make few converts either among the Hindoos, Chinese, and other advanced nations, or among the Australians and other very backward races.

It is quite unnecessary that an idol should be a work of art. The rudeness and shapelessness of the stocks and stones which are worshipped by savages have often been matters of surprise. Yet the same is the case with the favourite dolls of children. They are merely counters, as it were, and



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serve their purpose none the worse because they leave free play to the imagination.

Again, as regards pictures, we find the most curious fancies and superstitions among savages. They have a very general dislike to be drawn, thinking that the artist thereby acquires some mysterious power over them. If the picture is like, so much the worse. So much life, they argue, could not be put into the drawing except at the expense of the original. Kane once freed himself from some troublesome Indians by threatening to draw them if they did not go away; and Catlin very nearly lost his life from drawing a chief in profile, and thus, as it was supposed, depriving him of half his face.

It was also very generally believed that if any injury happened to the picture, the original must suffer also. A similar idea prevailed in this country down to the 17th century. King James assures us that by melting little images of wax, 'the persons that they bear the name of may be continually melted or dried away by continual sickness.' A similar connexion is supposed by uncultivated races to exist between a cut lock of hair and the person to whom it belonged. Therefore in various parts of the world, the sorcerer gets clippings of the hair of his enemy, parings of his nails, or leavings of his food, convinced that whatever evil is done to these will react on their former owner. Even a piece of clothing, or the ground on which a person has trodden, will answer the purpose; and among some tribes the mere knowledge of a person's name is supposed to give a mysterious power. The Indians of British Columbia have a great horror of telling their names. Among the Algonquins a person's real name is communicated only to his nearest relations and dearest friends: the outer world address him by a kind of nickname. Thus the name of La Belle Sauvage was not Pocahontas, but Matokes, which they were afraid to communicate to the English. In some tribes these name-fancies take a different form. According to Ward, it is an unpardonable sin for a Hindoo woman to mention the name of her husband. The Kafirs have a similar custom, and so have some East African tribes. In many parts of the world there are curious regulations for keeping men and women from intercourse with their fathers and mothers-in-law. In many, also, the names of the dead are avoided with superstitious horror. This is found in great parts of North and South America, in Siberia, among the Papuans and Australians, and even in Shetland, where a widow will never mention her former husband, firmly believing that if she were to do so his ghost would certainly appear. So also the ancients never dared to mention the Furies by name: the Zezidis never mention Satan, the Laplanders and Tunguz only speak of the bear and the tiger by a periphrasis; and the same superstition is found in Sumatra. The proverb, 'talk of the devil,' &c., recalls a time when a similar belief prevailed even among ourselves.

Taking a still wider stretch, the power of association grasps not only the spoken word, but its written representative. It has been seen how the Hindoo sorcerers wrote the name of their victim on the breast of the image made to personate him. A Chinese physician, if he has not got the drug he requires for his patient, will write the prescription on a piece of paper, and let the sick man swallow its ashes, or an infusion of the writing in water. This practice is, no doubt, very old, and may even descend from the time when the picture element in Chinese writing, now almost effaced, was still clearly distinguishable, so that the patient would at least have the satisfaction of eating a picture, not a mere written word. Whether the Moslems got the idea from them or not, I do not know, but among them a verse of the Koran, washed off into water and drunk, or even water from a cup in which it is engraved, is an efficacious remedy. Here the connexion between the two ends of the chain is very remote indeed. The arbitrary characters which represent the sound of the word which represents the idea have to do duty for the idea itself. The example is a striking one, and will serve to measure the strength of

the tendency of the uneducated mind to give an outward material reality to its own inward processes.

This confusion of objective with subjective connexion, which shows itself so uniform in principle, though so various in details, in the practices upon images and names, done with a view of acting through them on their originals and their owners, may be applied to explain one branch after another of the arts of the sorcerer and diviner, till it almost seems as though we were coming near the end of his list, and might set down practices not based on this mental process as exceptions to a general rule.

The chapters on 'Remarkable Customs' and on 'Myths' contain a vast number of interesting and amusing facts; but it must be admitted that the reader feels a certain want of purpose about them. For this disappointment, however, Mr. Tylor is not, we think, altogether responsible. We have not yet, as he truly says, 'the materials necessary for a definite theory.'

He thinks, however, that 'the wide differences in the civilization and mental state of the various races of mankind are rather differences of development than of origin, rather of degree than of kind.' To this we cannot altogether agree. We have not space, indeed, to discuss this interesting question, but we think that each great family of the human race has worked out for itself the greater part of any civilization which it may possess. On the other hand, we entirely agree with Mr. Tylor, that 'the history of mankind has been on the whole a history of progress.' Indeed, Mr. Wallace has shown, by a beautiful application to mankind of the principle of natural selection, that this must necessarily be so; nations may rise or may fall, but the tendency of our race as a whole is towards improvement.

## MALAYAN INDIA.

*Our Tropical Possessions in Malayan India: being a Descriptive Account of Singapore, Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca; their Peoples, Products, Commerce, and Government.* By John Cameron, Esq., F.R.G.S. With Illustrations. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)

THE author of this book—we presume one of the merchants of Singapore—has done his best to make us acquainted with that interesting island: its climate, its scenery, its productions, the peculiarities of the varied peoples who throng the busy streets of its capital, and the manners and customs of the Englishmen who have made it their temporary home. He writes with spirit, with intelligence, and with an evident love of his subject; and deserves our best thanks for having told us so much that is interesting about a place so little known to most readers.

The town of Singapore is situated only seventy-seven miles from the Equator—yet, far from being an unpleasant place to live in, most Europeans find it thoroughly enjoyable. It is a well-known fact that to many plants and animals, as well as to man, the actual temperature they live in is not of so much importance as its uniformity. A day that we feel to be disgustingly cold in summer would appear oppressively hot in winter, and sudden rises and falls of the thermometer are the most disagreeable and dangerous features of our English climate. How delightful, then, must that place be in which the daily changes are only just sufficient to make the mornings feel brisk, the evenings balmy, and the nights cool and pleasant, and where from January to December there is so little change of temperature that the oldest inhabitant could hardly point out the hottest or the coldest month! Neither is there any unpleasant wet or dry season; it scarcely ever rains a whole day through, and drought rarely continues for more than a week or two. There are no peculiar diseases, and with moderate care and prudence there is really nothing to prevent Englishmen enjoying excellent health, as the greater part of them actually do. A delightful description is given of the early morning walk which most resi-

dents indulge in. The rich, green, wall-like bamboo hedges, which generally line those parts of the roads which border the various suburban residences, sparkle with large drops of dew, and often display shoots of a foot in height, the growth of a single night. The evergreen trees have their large glossy leaves wet and glistening with the refreshing moisture; and where a strip of jungle-covered land is passed, there breathes forth the fragrance of the night blossoms.

The fruits brought to Singapore market form a long list, and include some of the choicest delicacies the earth can produce. The pineapple is very abundant, and in great perfection; mangoes, oranges, custard-apples, are all fine fruits; while the world-renowned mangosteen must be eaten to be appreciated. The following extract shows that the author has the observing power of a naturalist in him, though other passages prove it to have been little cultivated:—

It is remarkable to witness occasionally, in the midst of the busiest parts of the town, the struggle made by nature to assert her presence. It is not an uncommon sight to see ferns and creepers clustering about the tiled roofs of the older buildings, with no other soil than the damp mould which time has collected. I have witnessed a still harder struggle on the part of nature; it was a small shoot of the papaya tree, which had taken root in a soft and probably earthy part of the plaster of the perpendicular wall of a godown. It grew up gradually, till it appeared to have exhausted all the nutriment about its root, and then it remained stationary for a long time, and I even thought it was growing less in bulk. About six months afterwards, however, to my surprise it began to flourish again, and on examining it more closely I found that it had sent down small threads like feelers a distance of about twenty feet to the ground, and through these was doubtless drawing up a fresh supply of aliment.

This observation is interesting, because, as the author remarks, it is not the nature of the tree to throw out long roots. Here we have what really looks like voluntary growth and motion for a definite end, yet it is probably only a modification of a natural habit of the plant, which, as we have observed ourselves, grows most luxuriantly on a broken surface of limestone or coral rock, into the crevices of which it no doubt sends down fibrous rootlets, similar to those which, under pressure of circumstance, it emitted in the dusty streets of Singapore. In the following sentence, on the other hand, we doubt Mr. Cameron's accuracy, and are inclined to think that, like the celebrated orator, he, to some extent, trusted to his imagination for his facts:—

With respect to vegetable life in Singapore, I have noticed that the process of decay by no means keeps pace with the rapidity of reproduction. While beside you there still lie in good sound solid consistency the trunks that must have fallen half-a-century ago, there is flourishing above your head the stalwart growth of but twenty years.

From a pretty extensive acquaintance with tropical climates and tropical forests, and judging from the excessive rapidity with which all fallen timber goes through the first stages of decay, we very much doubt if any vestige of a trunk would remain 'half-a-century' after it was felled. Mr. Cameron, however, probably arrived at his conclusion from observations in cultivated districts, where, the wood-boring insects which hasten their destruction having been almost exterminated with the forests that supported them, the fallen trunks would no doubt in many cases long resist the mere influence of atmospheric action. In the virgin forests, however, we can assure him, the process of decay outstrips the rapidity of reproduction.

The following account of that very common tropical phenomenon, the light of the fire-flies, is altogether new to us, and not quite intelligible. Does the author mean that the little insects actually keep time with each other so accurately, that thousands of them scattered over a shrub or tree all put out their lights at the same instant, and re-kindle them with equal punctuality? If so, here is a new insect-wonder, before which the



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economy of bees and ants will sink into insignificance :—

The bushes literally swarm with fireflies, which flash out their intermittent light almost contemporaneously ; the effect being that for an instant the exact outline of all the bushes stands prominently forward, as if lit up with electric sparks, and next moment all is jetty dark—darker from the momentary illumination that preceded. These flashes succeed one another every three or four seconds for about ten minutes, when an interval of similar duration takes place, as if to allow the insects to regain their electric or phosphoric vigour.

We commend this as a subject of investigation for those naturalists who are so fortunate as to live among fireflies. In treating of the larger animals, our author is equally enigmatical. At page 90 he tells us that, 'There are two kinds of deer in the island—the ordinary elk, and the moose-deer.' Since the elk and the moose-deer are one and the same animal, we suppose the latter to be a misprint for 'mouse-deer,' a beautiful little creature only ten inches high—the 'Kanchil' of the Malays, and belonging to the genus *Moschus*, or musk-bearing group of animals. It seems more probable, however, that the name of mouse-deer has been here incorrectly given to one of the smallest of the true deer, the 'Muntjac' of the Malays, which is abundant in all the surrounding countries, and is therefore most likely found in Singapore. As to the elk, we may be quite sure that 'the ordinary elk,' an inhabitant of northern and Arctic regions, does not exist in the damp, hot forests of Singapore. The species referred to is no doubt the 'Rusa' of the Malays (*Rusa equina* of Cuvier), a very large deer, resembling the elk in the one particular of having a long horse-like mane (but otherwise quite dissimilar), whence it has perhaps received its very incorrect local name. As far as natural history is concerned, the school-master does not seem to be abroad in Singapore.

To the tigers, for which the island has been long notorious, a considerable space is devoted, and many interesting facts are recorded. Mr. Cameron does not think the estimate of one Chinaman per day killed by them too high a one. The number of animals who effect this destruction of human life need not, however, be great. The author supposes forty to be a fair estimate of the number in the island at any one time. We should imagine one-fourth of this number nearer the mark, since large game is now scarce, and there are not many domestic animals except pigs, which are well guarded by their owners ; and we really do not see how forty tigers could exist in so small and well-peopled an island without causing a much larger destruction of human and animal life. The smallness of their numbers is further shown by the fact that, notwithstanding a high reward offered by the Government for each tiger killed or captured, to which must be added the sum gained by exhibiting the animal if alive, and by the sale of its flesh if dead—for the Chinese purchase tiger-meat at a high rate, thinking that by eating it they will acquire the strength and courage of the animal—yet only two or three are killed in each year. They are often caught in pitfalls, which are very dangerous to the sportsman or naturalist who may be wandering in the forest, being constructed on some small track or pathway and so carefully concealed with dead leaves as to be easily overlooked. Full grown tigers are sometimes got alive out of these pits by means of an immense net-work of rattans, which is let down and drawn under the animal, and so well fastened as to render him harmless. Some eight years ago an immense animal, caught in this manner, was exhibited in Singapore, in a cage in which he could move about, and it was a grand and fearful sight to look on the ferocious beast, all soiled and ragged and bloody, half mad with rage and hunger, and evidently eager for the life-blood of his visitors. Seen in this condition, one can far better understand what

a terrible engine of destruction the tiger is, than by examining the sleek, clean, and half tame specimens in our menageries. Of this mode of capturing tigers we are told :—

It has sometimes happened that a tigress has had her cub fall down one of these pits, and in such cases there is no small measure of excitement, for the tigress keeps hovering about the spot, lying for hours perhaps in the jungle, and then suddenly bounding out, and leaping backwards and forwards over the pit to see that her cub is alive ; but so rapid is her motion, that a shot has very little chance of taking effect. A case of this sort occurred so late as January, 1864. Several men had been carried off within four or five days from the same district, and a number of fresh pits were dug. In a few days it was discovered that a well grown cub had fallen into one of them, and as the object was to kill the mother if possible, the cub was allowed to remain in the pit uninjured, and a body of police were sent for. On the following morning, about ten native peons, armed with muskets, &c., arrived, under the charge of the deputy-commissioner and two European inspectors. They proceeded cautiously to the mouth of the pit, and were looking down at the cub, when suddenly, with a fierce growl, the mother tiger bounded from the jungle right into the midst of them, tearing the sides of the pit, and forcibly scattering those around it, but directly attacking none. For a moment all were petrified, for the animal was actually brushing up against them. It would have been well had they remained so, for immediately the first surprise had passed away an ill-directed random fire was commenced by the native peons, the effect of which was certainly fatal, but fatal in the wrong quarter. The tigress retreated reluctantly to the jungle, apparently scathless, and it was found that one of the peons had received a shot through the body, from the effects of which he died the same evening ; the deputy commissioner had himself received a ball through the sleeve of his coat.

The natives believe that a great many tigers are really men, who by sorcery have transformed themselves, and that they can understand what is said to them. The best way, therefore, on meeting a tiger is to talk to it, and persuade it to leave you alone, and they have many anecdotes like the following :—

An old Malay was returning home, after a visit to town, to his house at Selita. He had his little child, a boy of seven or eight years old, slung behind him, and both were contentedly chewing away at jagong (Indian corn), when the father, on lifting up his eyes, saw a tiger crouching down right in front of him, and apparently preparing for a spring. Calling to mind the old saying (that if you will talk to the tiger, and reason with him, he will leave you unmolested) he gasped out a few words, and found that they appeared to arrest the tiger ; but being anxious not to risk the life of his son, he moved slowly backward to a tree which he remembered to have passed a few yards behind. The tiger advanced upon him step for step as he retreated. When the old man's back touched the tree, he told his son to climb up. This the boy did, and the father, relieved of anxiety on his account, drew his wood knife, and commenced an advance, arguing all the while with the keenest logic—sharpened, no doubt, by the occasion—that it would be infinitely better for both to part without quarrelling. This advance and retreat continued for about fifty yards, when the tiger, either persuaded by the logic or daunted by the bravery of the man, turned tail and bolted into the jungle.

In his chapter on the cultivation and products of the island, Mr. Cameron tells us of the rise, progress, and decay of the nutmeg plantations, of the disease which attacked the trees, and of the various attempts to eradicate it. This disease was an insolveable mystery to the planters, yet it seems to us that it was really nothing but natural decay, produced by over stimulus ; and we feel sure that if fresh plantations were formed on a system more in accordance with the natural habits of the tree, they might yet succeed. The nutmeg is a small tree, which grows in dense forests, consequently always in the shade. In Banda it is cultivated under the shade of magnificent Kanari trees (*Canarium commune*) ; it is never manured, and the trees reach a large size, and produce moderate crops for a great many years. In

Singapore, on the contrary, which has rather more sun and less rain than Banda, the trees were planted in perfectly open ground ; they were artificially shaded for the first few years, and then exposed to the full sunshine, and abundantly manured. Under this double stimulus they grew rapidly, and, our author states, 'were fruitful to an extent unknown in the Moluccas.' But just at the time when the trees should have come into healthiest maturity and fullest bearing they began to die ! The topmost leaves, twigs, and branches would wither, and the 'blight,' as it was called, would gradually descend till the tree was dead. It is a significant fact that the disease showed itself most rapidly in the later-formed plantations, when the nutmeg-growing mania was at its height, and when, in their eagerness to realize the large profits of the crop, the trees were forced into premature luxuriance, while the extensive clearing of the jungle had already rendered the climate more arid and less adapted to their healthy development. Instead of being, as Mr. Cameron states, and as the planters no doubt thought, 'an example of one of those curses which at times overtake man's industry, apparently unprovoked by his own default,' it seems to us the natural result of ignorance and a bad system of cultivation. Before the beautiful grounds of Government-hill were destroyed to make a useless fort, there were numbers of old nutmeg-trees as fine and healthy as those of Banda itself. But these were planted when the climate had not been deteriorated by recklessly clearing away the forest, and they were shaded by a number of large trees in their neighbourhood ; and had those who wished to make plantations simply cleared away the undergrowth and smaller trees from a patch of virgin forest, and used stimulating manures very sparingly, the nutmeg-tree, we feel assured, might still be flourishing profitably in Singapore.

The varied population of the town—the natives of India, the Malays, and the Chinese—are well described, though we think that this part of the work might have been advantageously enlarged. In his account of the trades of the Chinese, the ingenious gold and silversmiths, the caricature artists, and the curious process of boring gun-barrels by hand out of a solid bar of iron, are not mentioned. The statement that 'Malay women are fruitful to a degree unknown in colder latitudes' is one that we must altogether dissent from. We doubt if their average number of children is more than half that of the middle and lower class of Englishwomen ; and it seems clear that if they were so exceptionally prolific in a country where there is no unusual amount of disease, where food is so easily procured, and there is no other prime necessary of life, the Malayan population could not have remained so scanty as it everywhere is at the present day. Among the Dyaks of Borneo, and among most savage races, six or seven children is an unusually large family, and all we have seen leads us to believe that it is the same among the Malays.

An interesting account is given of the dwarf aborigines of the Malay peninsula, the Semangs, who believe they are the descendants of the white long-armed apes. Their excessive timidity and gentle manners, their use of the blow pipe and ignorance of the bow, their flat bridgeless noses and dwarfish stature, confirm us in the opinion we have long entertained, that these people have no relation whatever with the Papuans of New Guinea, with whom they have hitherto been associated, merely, it would seem, on account of their dark colour and woolly hair, while in almost every other character the two races are in direct opposition. Mr. Cameron speaks in deservedly high terms of Father Borie, a Jesuit Missionary, who for eighteen years has devoted himself to the welfare of these simple and childlike people ; and he well remarks, that it is a great mistake to impute, as many do, all the success of these missionaries to the showy and attractive character of the Romish service, when such a much more powerful cause exists in the unselfish devotion of kindly and well-educated



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men, who spend their whole lives in poverty and seclusion from civilized society, and give up all that is dear to most men for the benefit of their flocks. We find, however, not a word of the other Jesuit missionaries, who in an equally disinterested manner, and with equal success, have devoted themselves to the moral and intellectual improvement of the Chinese population of Singapore, who have built churches and established schools, and all on the scanty pittance allowed by the parent society. If success in the work of conversion, and the small money-cost of converts per head, were any test of the truth of a religion, undoubtedly the Roman Catholic faith would be well established. We believe, however, that this test can only be applied *inversely*, while what can be established by the fact of their great success is this—that it is the personal character, the tact, and the genuine earnestness of the missionary, far more than the form of his religion, which determines the amount of his success in converting and improving savage races.

A considerable space is devoted to the discussion of the very interesting question of the policy and morality of deriving a revenue from the licensing of gambling-houses. The theory of the present Government of Singapore is that, though opium-smoking and gambling are both vices (and it is difficult to say which is the most injurious), yet that to recognize, and derive a revenue from the practice of the vice, is in the first case right; in the second wrong. There is a monopoly of opium, which is farmed out and produces a large revenue; while the attempt is made (always unsuccessfully) to put down gambling. The result is merely to drive it from daylight to darkness, from open, fair, and moderate gaming, to surreptitious and unbounded indulgence, in places where the simple are victimized with impunity, and where violence and bloodshed are resorted to with little fear of detection. When the keeper of a gaming-house is discovered and fined, a subscription is often made round the table the next night to repay him. These fines are appropriated to public purposes, they are even calculated on as part of the revenue, so that gambling is really taxed, but taxed incidentally and capriciously, and without producing any of the good effects of supervision and regulation that might be combined with an established system of taxation. It is found, too, that the gamblers bribe the police, who are almost all natives, while even some of the European inspectors have become rich from the same cause. The present system, therefore, demoralizes the men on whom the public depends for protection, while it is totally inefficient to put down the so-called vice, and aggravates all those evil results which alone cause gambling to be considered a vice. Mr. Cameron very boldly advocates the taxing and licensing and regulation of gambling-houses; and we quite agree with him. We have neither the power nor the right to abolish gambling; and it is simply absurd to call that a vice in others which, when we practise it ourselves, is only an innocent amusement. Threepenny whist, *rouge-et-noir*, betting on the racecourse, and speculations on the Stock Exchange, are all just as much gambling, and just as much vices, as the particular mode of play adopted by the Chinese and Malays; and, to be consistent, we should stigmatize all alike as vicious, and render illegal and punishable every transaction in which money is risked on a chance. Gambling, like drunkenness, is the sign of a low state of moral and intellectual development, and must be combated by moral means rather than by penal enactments. Though often personally injurious, they neither of them directly infringe the rights and privileges of others; and we therefore transcend the proper sphere of government, and unjustifiably interfere with personal liberty, if we endeavour directly to put them down by law.

The merchants of Singapore appear, according to our author, to lead an easy and

luxurious life, though, owing to their houses being widely scattered in the suburbs, not a very sociable one. The climate does not prevent the constant use of a five-court and cricket-ground, and the military band twice a-week on the esplanade serves as the general rendezvous of the fashion and beauty of the place. The present inhabitants have the good taste not to forget their early friends and benefactors. In the new church just completed there are three fine stained-glass windows—one inscribed 'To the memory of Sir Stamford Raffles, the illustrious founder of Singapore;' another 'To Major-General Butterworth, who successfully governed these settlements from 1843 to 1855;' and the third (with a colonial freedom of language which must be most gratifying to the only surviving member of the trio) is set up 'To the honour and glory of God, and as a testimonial to John Crawford, Esq.'

In concluding our notice of this acceptable volume, we must give a word of praise to the faithfulness of the illustrations. They are evidently executed from careful drawings, although the tinting leaves much to be desired. The Malay fishing village, at page 129, is, in particular, a strikingly accurate and characteristic view.

## PALESTINE EXPLORATION.

*Report on the Birds of Palestine.* By H. B. Tristram, M.A., F.L.S. From the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London,' November 8, 1864.

THIS is the first instalment of the promised results of Mr. Tristram's expedition to the east and west of the Jordan, in the spring of 1864. It consists of a catalogue of 322 species, described, with three exceptions only, from specimens obtained by him or his party, and now safely deposited in this country. It is still imperfect, principally in the two classes of *grallatores* and *natatores*. The relations of this branch of the Fauna of Palestine to those of other regions are thus summed up by Mr. Tristram:—

Comparing the list with those of the extremities of the Palearctic region east and west, we find out of Mr. Swinhoe's list of 253 Chinese land birds, 36 species common to Palestine. Out of 210 Chinese waders and waterfowl, 57 are common to Palestine. Again, out of 230 Palestine land birds, 79 are common to the British Isles, excluding from the British list all mere accidental stragglers; and out of 92 Palestine *grallatores* and *natatores*, 55 can justly be reckoned as ordinary British birds.

Out of the whole 322 species noted in Palestine, 260 are included in the European lists; 31 are common to Eastern Africa, or merely the most accidental stragglers, and are chiefly desert species of Nubia and the Sahara; 7 are of Eastern Asia, 4 of Northern Asia; 4 of the gulls and terns are characteristic of Russia; and 27 species are, so far as our present knowledge extends, peculiar to Palestine and districts immediately adjacent.

Of these twenty-seven species, no less than nine were discovered by Mr. Tristram on this expedition, and are here described for the first time. Two were discovered by him in the Great Sahara, on a former journey, and others, though described by Hemprich and Ehrenberg, had not, till now, been seen in England.

The bearing of the birds of the Holy Land on the illustration of the Bible will no doubt be fully examined by Mr. Tristram in a work on that subject which he is understood to be preparing for the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The specimen (No. 230) of the ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) which he obtained from the *Belka*—that is, the rolling pastoral country immediately east of the Dead Sea—brings that bird considerably nearer to Palestine than was hitherto believed. Burckhardt (Appendix to his 'Travels in Syria,' p. 664) says that ostriches are found in ed-Dhahy, a district lying between the Jauf and the Jebel Shammar, nearer the country of the Wahabis. The *Belka* lies immediately to the north of Edom, the country of the patriarch Job, in whose book the only certain reference to the ostrich occurs in the Bible.

It may perhaps be said that there is not much in the above which can be of immediate advantage to the Biblical student. But this complaint is premature until the more elaborate work of Mr. Tristram, just alluded to, shall have appeared. And even pending that, there are some considerations which should dispose us to congratulation rather than complaint. It is surely matter of satisfaction to find the Holy Land at last undergoing accurate scientific examination, without any direct theological object, a process already extended to almost every country save that which forms the subject of the most ancient, most remarkable, and most valuable document in existence. By such unbiassed investigation alone can the real significance and value of the Bible be brought out. It is one of the operations specially reserved for our own times, and it is difficult to overrate its importance. As the first drops of that abundant shower which we trust is about to fall, these lists of Mr. Tristram ought to be welcomed by every student of the Sacred History and the Holy Land.

## BEATRICE.

*Beatrice.* By Julia Kavanagh. (Hurst & Blackett.)

WE have more than once had occasion to express our regret at the extent to which those of our novelists whose strength lies naturally in the delineation of character have of late yielded to the popular taste for mystery and excitement. It is true, of course, that the highest powers of human genius may be fitly devoted to displaying human action under circumstances of exceptional grandeur or exceptional intensity. Without the application of this supreme test the poet can hardly show the heights and depths of which the creations of his genius are capable. Lear, without his daughters' ingratitude, might have remained a foolish, fond old man; Hamlet, if his father had died a natural death, might have been known only as a self-conscious young gentleman, with a taste for profitless self-examination, and a questionable reputation for constancy; Lady Macbeth, if Duncan had taken a different route, might have died in the odour of housewifely sanctity, and left it a problem to her acquaintances how her husband would ever get on without her. In such cases as these something beyond the common-place accompaniments of every-day life was needful for the complete development of the original conception. But in the ordinary domestic novel extraordinary situations seem to us not only unnecessary, but injurious. The interest of this class of fictions consists mainly in the exhibition of human character as it appears under circumstances not very far removed from those in which we may ourselves be placed. If there is any wide departure from this latter condition, our sympathy with the people of whom we are reading becomes less appreciative, simply because the strain on our imagination becomes greater, while the help we derive from experience diminishes. Love and marriage are subjects which are still intelligible to all of us; but the sorrows of the bigamist are as yet shared only by a comparatively limited circle. The differences of a ward with a guardian may come home to every minor, and thus secure the sympathy of a most influential section of the novel-reading public; but when the guardian has recourse to poison, the ward's position becomes so exceptional, that the directness of the appeal is weakened.

We own, therefore, that we should have preferred to see the heroine of 'Beatrice' leading a more common-place life. Miss Kavanagh has gained quite a special reputation as the historian of uncomfortable love affairs. Every one of her novels presents us with some fresh instance of this general type. She finds a variety which promises to be inexhaustible in the labyrinthine relations which grow up between young ladies and gentlemen during that interesting period of their mutual existence. She never seems to grow tired of unravelling the curious complications, the



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odd misunderstandings, the uncomfortable mistakes, to which poor humanity seems especially a prey when its thoughts are wholly taken up with a young person of the other sex. The interest of such stories as these ought to be, in the main, of home growth. The lovers are so fully capable of making difficulties and discomforts for themselves, that it is simply superfluous to provide them with any help from external circumstances. Indeed, the effect of an involved plot and startling situations is often rather damaging than otherwise. It diverts the reader's attention from the main subject, and substitutes a new series of dilemmas altogether different from those in which the author's strong points are by hypothesis assumed to lie. How can you keep your whole mind fixed on the supreme question whether the hero's perverseness or the heroine's pride will give way first, when the life of one or other of them is threatened at the same time? What are the details of a lovers' quarrel when pitted against those of a mystery which baffles the whole strength of the detective police, and is only unravelled by a private inquiry set on foot by a gifted amateur? But though we like Miss Kavanagh's old manner better than the one which she has adopted in 'Beatrice' and 'Queen Mab,' we can still honestly praise her for the way in which she handles her new weapons. It is impossible, of course, to condescend to the taste of the moment without introducing a certain amount of improbability; for sensations, in the popular acceptance, are of the nature of pitch—not to be approached without being unnatural. But Miss Kavanagh has sustained as little injury in the attempt as could reasonably be anticipated, and, considering the nature of the journey, her intellectual petticoat shows wonderfully few traces of it. Her old power of character painting has not deserted her. Beatrice Gordon is as charming a heroine as Natalie or Adèle, though she would have been seen to greater advantage if the canvas had been less crowded, and the surrounding light less lurid.

We do not propose to tell the story of the novel in anything like detail. The plot turns principally upon Beatrice's relations with her guardian, Mr. Gervoise. This gentleman has married her mother, by means of which circumstance he contrives to obtain entire control over Beatrice's movements, even after she is of age. Whenever his step-daughter threatens to send him out of her house, where he has been living all the years of her minority in great luxury, at her expense, he makes no resistance, but simply orders his wife to pack up her things, and come with him; and as Beatrice is very fond of her mother, and Mrs. Gervoise terribly afraid of her husband, the difficulty is always smoothed over, and the family circle remains unbroken. That wives can, if they choose, separate themselves from their husbands, in fact, if not in name, never seems to have entered Miss Kavanagh's head, and therefore we cannot be surprised that it should have never suggested itself to her heroine. Mr. Gervoise's first intention is to marry his ward to his second and favourite son; but when this is frustrated by Beatrice's unconquerable repugnance, he so far condescends to her wishes as to substitute Gilbert, his eldest son. To this Beatrice makes no objection, and after a good deal of preliminary skirmishing, which Miss Kavanagh describes with her accustomed skill, Gilbert and she fall in love as heartily as their parent and guardian can desire. But hereupon there arises a difficulty. Though Beatrice is almost one-and-twenty, Mr. Gervoise's consent is practically necessary for her marriage, because without it she cannot keep her mother with her. He tries to stipulate with Gilbert for the payment of a large sum of money, which he pretends to have laid out on the estate, and for an arrangement by which he may continue to live at Carnoosie. Gilbert thinks that he would be dishonoured by consenting to such conditions; the marriage is broken off, and the lovers separate. No doubt it would have

been a terrible mortification to any man to get a wife on such terms as these; but we cannot for all that admit that Gilbert was right in rejecting them. On the contrary, he made the not infrequent mistake of confounding honour and reputation. There would have been nothing really dishonourable in consenting to the sacrifice of a part of Beatrice's property, even though his own father was to benefit by it, when the sacrifice was made with Beatrice's knowledge, by her most ardent desire, and as the only possible means of securing her happiness. The worst that could have befallen Gilbert would have been a loss of character in the eyes of persons who had only a superficial acquaintance with the facts. In certain positions of exceptional responsibility, it may be a man's duty to avoid even the suspicion of evil, but in ordinary cases, where his own conscience is clear, to disregard the opinion of the world, in order to secure his mistress's happiness, may be an equally obvious obligation. After a time, however, Mrs. Gervoise dies, Beatrice loses Carnoosie, and the lovers are married. His father's animosity deprives Gilbert of the means of making a livelihood by his profession, and he and his wife are reduced to great poverty; which is aggravated by his ill health. In the end, however, Carnoosie comes back to Beatrice, and Mr. Gervoise is left to the company of a guilty conscience and the recollection of profitless crime—an amount of poetical justice with which the most critical reader will hardly find fault. How these events come to pass he must be left to find out for himself. If he cares for novel-reading at all, he will not regret the time he may have to spend in doing so.

*The Notting-hill Mystery.* Compiled by Charles Felin, Author of 'Velvet Lawn,' &c. (Saunders, Otley, & Co.)—It would be equally unfair to author and reader to make any attempt to unravel this mystery. Suffice it to say that the book purports to contain the materials collected by the solicitor of a life insurance company upon the investigation of a highly-suspicious claim made against it, together with his report upon the case. Much ingenuity is displayed in framing such of the circumstances as may credibly be supposed to have actually existed; but like many other attempts to create interest in fictitious accounts of crime, it fails in emulating the reality of some recent *causes célèbres* turning on similar points. Nor does the introduction of a quasi-supernatural element add to the truthfulness of the narrative. We fear that no jury would have believed it, and that the wicked Baron must have recovered his 25,000*l.*

*Pages in Waiting.* By Edmund Yates. (Maxwell.)—'Pages in Waiting' is not, as might be supposed from the title, a novel of courtly life, but a collection of papers contributed by Mr. Yates to *Temple Bar*. They comprise tales, sketches of artistic life, gossiping essays, and short poems—all written in that touch-and-go style which is characteristic of the author. It is needless to say that they are clever and smartly written, and are, for the most part, very good as slight magazine articles; but it may be fairly doubted whether a collection of such ephemeral productions is worthy of the honour of separate publication.

*A Dream of Idleness, and other Poems.* By W. Cosmo Monkhouse. (Moxon & Co.)—Mr. Monkhouse, in a modest enough preface, informs us that he has written much verse, but is now making his first appearance before the public. His command of language and powers of versification would have led us to infer that his hand was not an unpractised one; and we think that, when weighed in the scales of public opinion, as Mr. Monkhouse wishes his poetry to be, the balance will be found to turn in the way that will be most pleasing to him. Indeed, the volume contains a great deal of good poetry. The following lines are from 'A Dream of Idleness':—

We steer by stars which fell us in our need  
To lands we never dreamed of when we sailed.  
O miserable uncertainty, to toil  
And see the painful labour of a life  
Outraged by use unworthy; see the shaft  
We pointed to a hair's breadth, miss the mark,  
Caught by a passing breath; the sword we forged  
Turn its ungrateful edge against our cause.

Oh, happy they who die with some vast work  
Half-done, with all the purple bloom of hope  
Still fresh upon their hearts, nor live to see  
The fell diversity of aim and end  
Attending noble efforts,—know what 'tis  
To be so strong and yet so powerless.

'Love's Learning' is as tender and true a version of the old, old story as we have seen for a long while—

## LOVE'S LEARNING.

My Love hath cast aside all fear,  
It is not Love the more,  
But thou art dearer, nearer, than before,  
And each sweet meeting draws us still more near.  
Betwixt us knowledge worketh change.  
Thy once unfathom'd eyes  
Have yielded up their simple mysteries,  
And thy sweet smile is now no longer strange.  
All is familiar now. Thy face  
Is as a living book  
Well-conn'd, translated to the subtlest look:  
It cannot open but I know the place.  
A pleasant lesson, learnt by heart;  
Thou canst not turn thy head,  
Before the movement is interpreted  
With all the pleasure of a practised art.  
All old, yet ever new, all known,  
Dearer for knowledge. Thou  
Art mine alone from foot to brow,  
From foot to brow my own, my very own.  
O truth that never can be trite!  
Who wearies of the sun?  
And thy strong course as yet hath but begun:  
I feel its beauty broaden as I write.

In 'The Night Express' it is shown how much poetry lies in the rushing of the snorting train on its appointed journey through the silent night. It sings its own course:—

Faster and faster still—  
Dive I through rock and hill,  
Starting the echoes with my shrill alarms;  
Swiftly I curve and bend;  
While, like an eager friend,  
The distance runs to clasp me in its arms.

Our space prevents us from doing more than give these short specimens of a new poet's work. But there is nothing in the book which is not remarkable for excellence. Only we do not quite understand the piece entitled 'John Starkie, Solicitor,' and although he seems to have been a most estimable practitioner, we should not regret to see his name struck from the roll of Mr. Monkhouse's poems.

*Miscellaneous Poems.* By George Gatfield. (Day & Son).—This modest little volume deserves a passing notice, as emanating from a region in which we should be glad to see a taste for poetry flourish and increase. Its author is neither a professional man of letters, nor is he one of those poetasters whom idleness induces to wallow in unpardonable verse. He belongs to a class to whom many critics are constantly indebted for good services—that of the attendants at the British Museum; and, accordingly, his present literary attempt is entitled to meet with courtesy at their hands. His verses show that he has a genuine appreciation of poetry, and they bear the impress of good taste and good feeling. Many of them are, of course, echoes of passages occurring in the works of favourite authors, and they often stand in need of a touch from a correcting hand; but they are singularly free from affectation or vulgarity. If the flowers of his fancy are not actual roses, they have at least lived near the rose, and so retain something of its perfume.

## NEW NOVELS.

*A Splendid Fortune.* By the Author of 'The Gentle Life.' Three volumes. (Sampson Low, Son, & Marston).—The work before us is a good specimen of the result of a tolerably practised writer sitting down resolutely and saying to himself, 'Go to; I will write a novel in three volumes, post octavo.' Forthwith he pieces together the stock incidents of fiction to form his plot—the secret marriage of a lovely governess to the heir to an earldom, the sudden death of the husband, and the consequent loss of marriage certificate and of character by the lady, and ultimate baffling of the schemes of wicked intriguers, and restoration of the son of the governess to his 'splendid fortune.' The course of the main action being thus arranged, the author sketches out an underplot, depicting the career of a vain actress and her clever but scampish husband. For *dramatis personæ* he selects, besides the characters above mentioned, a model country physician, full of self-sacrifice, and hopelessly in love with the fair young widow; all sorts of lords and ladies, good, bad, and indifferent; a wicked *dame de compagnie*; many wicked lawyers, and one good one, who hates law books; an eccentric baronet with a wooden leg, who adopts the profession of bill-sticking during the nursing of his



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estates; an astute but virtuous Catholic priest, with chorus of nuns; and a *troupe* of the obligatory 'Bohemians,' headed by the 'Warlock of the South,' who ultimately takes the Theatre Royal, Brydges-street, and gets it burnt down during a masked ball, as naturally as possible. For scenery, we have the life of a stagnant country town, with its little political excitements, its review of yeomanry, and its public-house gossip—the park and mansion of the local magnate, the inside of a theatre in the daytime and during the progress of a masked ball, ending in the above-mentioned fire, the interior of a convent, &c., &c. The experienced novel-reader will have little difficulty in imagining how all this is worked up into the regulation three volumes. The birth, parentage, and education of every new personage is set forth at length. Every place in which the action takes place is fully described, and every supernumerary has his few words to say or his little eccentricity to exhibit. A certain number of moral reflections are of course introduced, a few scraps of French (not unfrequently wrongly spelt or faulty in grammar, by the way) are scattered about, and a quantity of good, sound, wholesale abuse of law and lawyers fills up what vacant spaces there may happen to be; and the general result is a book which, though without any pretension to be regarded as a work of art, is tolerably amusing and readable.

We will not conclude without a protest against the practice of connecting a fictitious personage with real incidents in the mode adopted in 'A Splendid Fortune.' It is possible, for aught we know, that the gentleman whose professional name is slightly veiled under the title of the 'Warlock of the South' may not object to the introduction of the burning theatre, and to the various adventures in which his representative is made to take part; but most people would be very sorry to find themselves under travestied names, and ear-marked by real incidents with which they are known to have been connected, playing the parts of puppets in a novel. The device is a bad and inartistic one, and unworthy of adoption by an author who has, at any rate, sufficient imagination and skill to invent his own characters and situations.

*Miles Buller.* Three volumes. (Chapman & Hall.)—It is no small praise, in these days of easy novel-writing and hard novel-reading, to say that a novel ends better than it begins. And this praise we can accord fully to 'Miles Buller.' The opening scenes are somewhat dull, but the interest increases as the work advances, and though it continues throughout of a very quiet and non-sensational character, there is quite enough 'story' to make the book very pleasant reading. What the plot is it is hardly worth while to tell, because it is really little more than a peg whereon to hang sketches of character and life in a small Scotch town. All the characters are well drawn, and in good keeping, and the gradual accustoming of the bluff Englishman who gives the title to the book to the Scottish ways of life is good and amusing. The eccentric laird, and his still more eccentric sister, who play leading parts (being, in fact, the only people who represent in any sense the villains of the story), and do that only in the mildest manner, are somewhat caricatured, and are not very diverting personages. The doctor, the Englishman, and the Free Kirk minister, are by far the most entertaining characters. The great fault of the book, as of so many clever novels, is the overcrowding of the stage with characters, and the want of any central group or figure. We would also hint that we benighted Southrons are apt to find pages upon pages of the dialect of Aberdeen, phonetically spelt, somewhat wearying, not to say at times incomprehensible. Nevertheless, 'Miles Buller' is a clever and amusing book, which we can recommend to all who are not seeking for a 'sensation' novel.

*Behind the Curtain.* By Lieut.-Col. Addison. Three volumes. (Maxwell.)—We can hardly describe this novel better than by saying that it resembles an expansion of a minor theatre melodrama more than anything else. The hero, who has been defrauded of his birthright and brought up in rags, and who, on saving the life of a child, is at once adopted by a noble family, and enabled to resume his position, the villainous but hypocritical patrician, who kidnaps children and immures young ladies in madhouses, and the benevolent, heavy fathers—we have all met on provincial and transpontine boards, and we cannot but think that they are more in their element there than in the pages of a novel. All

we can say of the dialogue is, that it is on a par with the characters and the plot. Colonel Addison has much to learn and observe before he is capable of constructing a successful work of fiction.

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

- AINSWORTH (William Harrison). Lancashire Witches: a Romance of Pendle Forest. New Edition. Fesp. 8vo, sd., pp. 480. Routledge. 1s.
- ALISON (Sir Archibald, Bart., D.C.L.). History of Europe from the Fall of Napoleon in 1815 to the Accession of Louis Napoleon in 1852. Vol. VI. 8th Thousand. Post 8vo, pp. ix.—386. Blackwoods. 4s.
- ALLINGHAM (William). Fifty Modern Poems. Fesp. 8vo, pp. viii.—183. Bell & Daldy. 6s.
- AMERICAN Standard Library. Fesp. 8vo, bds. C. H. Clarke. Each 2s.—
- THE Backwoods' Bride, &c., &c. By Mrs. M. V. Victor.
- THE Brigantine, &c., &c. By D. Paulding.
- SINGLE Eye, &c., &c. By Warren St. John.
- THE Scout, &c., &c. By Warren St. John.
- ANSTED (Professor D. T., M.A., F.R.S.). Applications of Geology to the Arts and Manufactures. Being Six Lectures on Practical Geology, Delivered before the Society of Arts as a part of the 'Cantor' Series of Lectures for 1865. Fesp. 8vo, pp. vii.—300. Hardwicke. 4s.
- ARROWSMITH (Rev. W. R.). Shakespeare's Editors and Commentators. 8vo, sd. J. R. Smith. 1s. 6d.
- BAEDEKER (M.). Paris, including Routes from London to Paris and from Paris to the Rhine and Switzerland. Handbook for Travellers. With Map and Plans. Fesp. 8vo, pp. xxviii.—282. Williams & Norgate. 4s. 6d.
- BELL'S English Poets. New Issue. The Poems of William Cowper, with Selections from the Works of Robert Lloyd, Nathaniel Cotton, Henry Brooke, Erasmus Darwin, and William Hayley. Edited, with a Memoir, by Robert Bell. Vol. III. Fesp. 8vo. Griffln. 1s. 6d.; cl. 1s. 6d.
- BENTHAM (George, F.R.S.). Handbook of the British Flora: a Description of the Flowering Plants and Ferns Indigenous to, or Naturalized in, the British Isles. For the use of Beginners and Amateurs. With Illustrations from Original Drawings. 2 vols. 8vo, pp. lxxiv.—1,076. L. Reeve. 70s.
- BICKERSTAFFE (Mona B.). Araki the Daimio: a Japanese Story of the Olden Time. Post 8vo, pp. viii.—175. Jackson, Walford, & Hodder. 5s.
- BLACK'S New and Complete Grammatical German and English Dictionary. Edited by F. W. Thieme. Ninth Stereotype Edition. 12mo. bd. Williams & Norgate. 7s.
- CHINA Cup (The); or, Ellen's Trial. A Worcestershire Story. Royal 18mo, pp. 99. Religious Tract Society.
- COMTE (Auguste). General View of Positivism. Translated by J. H. Bridges. Cr. 8vo, pp. xii.—428. Trübner. 8s. 6d.
- CRUIKSHANK'S (George) Fairy Library. With Engravings. New Edition. Sq. cr. 8vo. Routledge. 5s.
- CUMMING (Rev. John, D.D.). Voices of the Day. Twelfth Thousand. Enlarged. Fesp. 8vo, pp. viii.—496. J. F. Shaw. 5s.
- DEBBETT'S Illustrated Peerage and Baronetage. 1865. In 1 vol. Post 8vo, hf. bd. Dean. 15s.
- DICKENS (Charles). Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club. With a Frontispiece. Cheap Edition. In 2 vols. Vol. I. Cr. 8vo, bds., pp. 257. Chapman & Hall. 2s.
- ELLIS (Edward S.). Hunter's Escape. A Tale of the North-west in 1862. (Beagle's American Library, No. 60.) Fesp. 8vo, sd., pp. 100. Beadle. 6d.
- FALCONER (Edmund). Murmurings in the May and Summer of Mordhoon. O'Rourke's Bride, or the Black Spark in the Emerald; and Man's Mission: a Pilgrimage to Glory's Goal. Poems. Fesp. 8vo, pp. xii.—159. Tinsley. 5s.
- FERROL Family (The); and other Tales of Domestic Life. (Shilling Books for Leisure Hours.) Sq. cr. 8vo, pp. 285. Religious Tract Society. Cl. 1s.; cl. 2s.
- GLADDENING Streams, or the Waters of the Sanctuary. New Edition. Roy. 32mo. Houlston. 1s. 6d.
- GLEANINGS Amongst the Vineyards. By an F.R.G.S. With Maps and Illustrations. 12mo, sd., pp. 170. Beeton. 1s.
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- GROSER (William H.). Our Work: Four Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Sunday-school Teaching, delivered before the Members of the Sunday-school Union Training Class. Fesp. 8vo, pp. 192. Sunday-school Union.
- HILLOCKS (James Inches). My Life and Labours in London, a Step Nearer the Mark. Post 8vo, pp. xii.—291. Freeman. 3s. 6d.
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- WRONG Letter (The). A Novel. 3 vols. Post 8vo. Newby. 31s. 6d.

## MISCELLANEA.

A CURIOUS discovery as to the passing of bills through Parliament was made on Thursday night (last week), or rather in the small hours of Friday morning. The bill that is to be read a first time may probably have no existence beyond the title, which, having been taken on that occasion as the bill, the second reading of a bill not in existence follows as a matter of course. A Government bill about Irish drainage was, on a division, ordered by a majority of the House to be read a second time. Upon which Mr. Hennessy, one of the minority, demanded that the order should be literally obeyed. It was then confessed that there was no bill to read. That which had been brought in and read a first time, and which was now submitted for a second reading, was merely a blank sheet of cartridge-paper, folded and tied with tape to look like a bill, and the bill itself was still in the printer's hands, had never been seen by the House, and could not be produced. One of the clerks at the table had recited the title of the bill, which is ordinarily accepted as a reading of the whole; so the Speaker insisted that the bill had been read a second time in the customary way, for no one can pretend that it is usual to read a bill from beginning to end. Indeed, as far as can be gathered from the journals, the second reading has always been deemed to be accomplished when the clerk, in a loud voice, proclaimed the title of the bill.

MOST of our readers will remember the statue of the Amazon by Professor Kiss, of Berlin, the cast of which attracted so much attention in the Great Exhibition of 1851. We regret to announce the death of the sculptor, at his residence in Berlin.



# THE READER.

1 APRIL, 1865.

He had long been suffering from congestion of blood to the head, and was found dead in his bed on Friday last week.

AT OXFORD, Dean Ireland's Scholarship has been awarded to E. R. Wharton, Scholar of Trinity. *Proxime accessit*—W. H. Simcox, Scholar of Queen's.—The Arnold Historical Essay prize, subject, 'The Secret Fraternities of the Middle Ages,' has been awarded to A. P. Marras, B.A., Lincoln. *Proxime accessit*—R. E. Davies, B.A., Christ Church. Subject for next year, 'The Greek Orators Considered as Historical Authorities.'—The Denyer and Johnson Scholarships have been, under the statute of 1863, awarded for the first time to A. S. Chavasse, B.A., Fellow of University; H. T. Morgan, B.A., Trinity; and O. J. Reichel, B.A., Queen's.—The examination for the Corpus Scholarships has terminated as follows: *Elected*—Mr. Ilbert, from Marlborough; Mr. Ingham, from Rugby; Mr. Knox, from St. Paul's School; Mr. Lock, from Marlborough; and Mr. Maitland, lately from the Edinburgh Academy. *Proxime accessit*—Mr. Pelham, from Harrow.—The election to the vacant Fellowships at Pembroke terminated in favour of Mr. W. H. Corfield, B.A. and Demy of Magdalen (Sheppard Fellow), and Mr. A. T. Barton, B.A., of Corpus Christi. Mr. Corfield obtained a first class in mathematics in the first and final examinations. Mr. Barton was placed in the first class in classics both in the first and second examinations.

AT CAMBRIDGE, the following list has been issued by the Examiners: *Classical Tripos*, 1865—A. Holmes, M.A., Clare; C. S. D. Townshend, M.A., Jesus; J. L. Hammond, M.A., Trinity; and J. Peile, M.A., Christ's:—

First Class.			
Whitlaw*	Trin.	Simpson*	Christ's.
Durnford }	King's.	Fennell*	Jesus.
Image }	Trin.	Arbutnot }	Trin.
Beebe* }	John's.	Browne }	Trin.
Collins }	Down.	Cobbold }	King's.
Austen Leigh }	King's.	Wiseman }	John's.
Hammond*	Trin.		
Second Class.			
Cust }	John's.	Metcalfe, E. P.*	Christ's.
Dale }	Jesus.	Marshall*	Trin.
Muschamp }	Peter's.	Carlos }	Trin.
Phillipotts }	King's.	Taylor }	Magd.
Statham }	Christ's.	Fisher }	Jesus.
Cartmell }	Christ's.	Wright }	Trin.
Collier }	Caius.	Coulicher }	Corpus.
South }	Trin.	Swainson }	Jesus.
Tovey }	Trin.	Watson }	John's.
Bennett }	Trin. H.	Cunningham }	Caius.
Dalton }	Trin.	Whitaker }	Queen's.
Pulleine }	Trin.	Ingle }	Trin.
Thelwall }	Christ's.	Rowlandson }	Corpus.
Third Class.			
Oldknow }	Jesus.	Wodehouse*	Trin.
Hooper }	John's.	Barlow }	John's.
Kenyon, Hon. E. }	Trin.	Howes }	Pemb.
Wagh* }	Jesus.	Webster*	Trin.
Platt }	Trin.	Metcalfe, W. P.* }	Christ's.
Taylor }	Trin.	Wilcox }	Emm.
Johnson }	Trin.	Redpath*	Trin.
Gleadowe }	Magd.	Apthorp }	Emm.

Mr. Whitlaw, the Senior in the Classical Tripos, was first brought into notice by the Cambridge Local Examinations at Liverpool, when he was a pupil at the Lancaster Grammar School, under the Rev. T. F. Lee. The degree of B.A. was conferred upon those who had passed the Classical Tripos, to whose names an asterisk is affixed in the list. The two gold medals (classical) given by the Chancellor to two commencing Bachelors of Arts have been adjudged to R. Whitlaw, Trinity, 9th Senior Optime and head of the Classical Tripos; and B. E. Hammond, Trinity, 32nd Wrangler, 7th Classic.

LORD PALMERSTON, according to the *Musical Standard*, has become an honorary member of the Civil Service Musical Society. The same authority says: 'We believe that the Civil Service Musical Society have secured a *locale* for practices at King's College, Somerset House.'

THE annual meeting of the Royal Literary Fund will take place at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Wednesday, May 10. His Grace the Archbishop of York will preside on the occasion.

THE following important news from Abyssinia is copied from the *Pall Mall Gazette* of Tuesday evening: 'Intelligence has just reached us from Massowah stating that the British captives in Abyssinia had found means to communicate with the British Agent at that place. Two slips of paper had been received from Capt. Cameron, also one from the Rev. Mr. Stern, addressed to his wife, and one from Mrs. Rosenthal to her mother. The captives, comprising Capt. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Rosenthal and child, Messrs. Stern, McKilvie, Keraus, Bardel, Macraire, and David Pietro, were all confined in the fortress of Magdala. They had been supplied with the

necessaries of life by Mr. Flad, of Gaffat. The captives were all well. Mr. Keraus had been ill, but was reported to have recovered. All the male prisoners had fetters weighing from fifteen to twenty pounds on their legs. There is no positive evidence that King Theodorus has relented; nevertheless we are glad to hear that he has been known to express, conditionally, a desire to renew amicable relations with the English. The condition alluded to may have some connexion with the errand of the messenger lately sent by the Abuna to Cairo, as reported in our issue of the 23rd ultimo. Another contingency is supposed to refer to the proceedings of a certain Comte de Buisson, who appears to have received armed assistance from the Egyptian authorities to establish a colony in the Bogos, a district claimed by the Abyssinians. Up to the 2nd inst. no reply had reached Massowah from King Theodorus. Mr. Warner has given notice that on Monday next he will ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is true that several British subjects, and among them a British consul, have been arbitrarily imprisoned by the Sovereign of Abyssinia; and if he will state to the House what are the alleged grounds, if any, of such treatment; whether they have been subjected to any further injury or indignity in addition to the restraint of liberty; and also, what steps have been taken by Her Majesty's Government to procure for them liberation and redress; and what is the present position of the question in regard to them. It will be seen that our despatch furnishes a reply to the last part of his question.'

M. ROGEARD, the author of 'Les Propos de Labienus,' and the printer, M. L'Ainé, were tried by the Police-court at Paris, on Saturday last. The former having escaped to Brussels, was nevertheless sentenced to five years' imprisonment and a fine of 500f.; and the latter, to a month's imprisonment and a like fine of 500f. M. L'Ainé pleaded that he was quite ignorant of the nature of the satire. He merely glanced over the MS., and took it to be simply an episode of Roman history of the period now so interesting to the public. The friends of M. Rogeard have already collected 7,000f. for him. A member of the Paris Bar, M. Maurice Joby, is also to be brought to trial, the police, upon searching his house, having found copies of the pamphlet and of another of similar import amongst his papers. An edition of 1,200 copies were speedily sold; but the second edition of 5,000 copies was seized by the police.

THE interminable French 'song of 'M. de la Palisse,' which, like its prototype of 'Yankee Doodle,' admits of any jingle-jangle being added *ad libitum*, has just given title to an article in the *Rive Gauche*, ridiculing the 'Histoire de Jules César.' The article is devoted to the 'Dynasty of M. de la Palisse,' and the family connexions are traced out with heraldic minuteness, showing how the little sense of its founder has gradually dwindled away through succeeding generations, till the last descendant proved his stupidity by the utterance of trite and silly platitudes 'such as follow,' and these all consist of weak points from the 'Histoire de Jules César,' set to the jingle of the song. The numbers have been prohibited, but of course everybody can hum the tune and enjoy mentally the wit of the thing.

MESSRS. LONGMAN AND CO. have just issued the third volume of the Cabinet Edition of the Rev. C. Merivale's 'History of the Romans under the Empire.' The whole contents of these three volumes is most interesting at this moment, because they embrace the life of Julius Caesar, and the consequences of his usurpation, to the acceptance by Augustus of the title of Caesar. They conclude with a masterly sketch of the Imperial authority, which absorbed the prerogatives of the several Republican offices—1, the Imperium; 2, the Principatus; 3, the Consulship and Proconsular Command; 4, the Potestas Tribunitia; 5, the Potestas Consularis; 6, the Supreme Pontificate; and 7, the Legislative and Judicial Functions, entering fully into the characters of each; all of which cannot fail to interest the reader of the Emperor of the French's 'Histoire de Jules César.' Messrs. Longman and Co. have reprinted the interesting autobiography of Sir Benjamin Brodie prefixed to Mr. Hawkins's edition of the complete works, reviewed in No. 116 of THE READER, in a pocket form. It is sure to be extensively read, both by professional and unprofessional men, containing, as it does, most careful sketches of many eminent persons, of whom he had the fullest means of forming a correct judgment. During the present month Messrs. Longman and Co. will publish—'An Examination

of Sir William Hamilton's Philosophy, and of the Principal Philosophical Questions Discussed in his Writings,' by John Stuart Mill;—'The Catholic Doctrine of the Atonement, an Historical Inquiry into its Development in the Church, with an Introduction on the Principle of Theological Developments,' by Henry Nutcombe Oxenham, M.A.;—'A Campaigner at Home,' by Shirley, author of 'Thalatta' and 'Nugæ Criticæ';—'History of Discovery in our Australasian Colonies, Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, from the Earliest Date to the Present Day, with Maps of the Recent Explorations, from Official Sources,' by William Howitt;—and 'Chapters on Language,' by Frederic W. Farrar, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. They have now ready, 'Historical Notes to the "Lyra Germanica," drawn from Authentic German Sources, forming a companion to "Lyra Germanica,"' by the Rev. Theodore Kübler, Minister of the German Protestant Reformed Church, London, a book which contains memoirs of German hymn-writers, notices of remarkable occasions on which some of the hymns have been used, and much other like interesting information.

MESSRS. SMITH, ELDER, AND CO. have just published the following new novels: 'Heiress of the Blackburnfoot,' in one volume;—'Once and Again,' by the author of 'Who Breaks—Pays,' 'Cousin Stella,' &c., in three vols.;—'Belial,' in two vols.; and 'By the Sea,' by the author of 'Hester Kirton,' 'Chesterford,' and 'A Bad Beginning,' in two vols. And they announce the following as nearly ready: 'Grasp your Nettle,' by E. Lynn Linton, author of 'The Lake Country,' 'Azeth, the Egyptian,' &c., in three vols.;—'Grey's Court,' edited by Lady Chatterton, in two vols.;—'Noel, or It Was to Be,' by Robert Baker, in two vols.; and 'Dharma; or, Three Phases of Love,' by E. Paulet, in three vols.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND CO. have in the press: 'The Scenery of Scotland in Connexion with its Physical Geology,' by Archibald Geikie, with Illustrations, and a new Geological Map of Scotland, by Sir Roderick I. Murchison and A. Geikie;—'A Descriptive Catalogue of the Waldensian Manuscripts Preserved in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge,' by Dr. Todd; with an Appendix, containing a correspondence (reprinted from the *British Magazine*) on the Poems of the Poor of Lyons, the antiquity and genuineness of the Waldensian Literature, and the supposed loss of the Morland MSS. at Cambridge;—'The Coal Question: an Inquiry Concerning the Progress of the Nation and the Probable Exhaustion of our Coal Mines,' by W. Stanley Jevons, M.A., Fellow of the Statistical Society;—'The Hillyars and the Burtons: a Story of Two Families,' by Henry Kingsley;—'Miss Russell's Hobby,' a Novel;—'Letters from Egypt,' by Lady Duff-Gordon;—'Cawn-pore,' by G. O. Trevelyan, author of 'The Competition Wallah';—'Central and Eastern Arabia,' by William Gifford Palgrave, who, in the guise of a Christian physician of Damascus, travelled from Gaza by Maan and the Jauf, to Hail, the chief city of the Jebel Shunna, and thence to Riadh, the capital of the Wahabite kingdom, where he remained for seven weeks in constant intercourse with the king, the nobles, and other people of the place. Hence he had to fly for his life. He then proceeded to Oman, the dominion of the prince, usually called the Imaun of Muscat. Here also he remained for a considerable time, and at length returned to Bagdad. His journey occupied in all nearly eleven months; the route and the places visited are of the greatest possible interest to us, though hitherto almost entirely unknown to the Western World;—'English Idylls,' by J. Ellice; 'The Poetical Works of John Milton,' edited, with text collated from the best authorities, and with Critical and Explanatory Notes, by Professor Masson;—and the sixth volume of 'The Cambridge Shakespeare.' They also announce from the Clarendon Press: 'Britton: a Treatise on the Laws of England,' composed in the name of King Edward I., edited, with an English translation and notes, by Francis Morgan Nichols, Barrister-at-Law;—'A History of Agriculture and Prices in England from 1259—1792, compiled entirely from Original and Contemporaneous Records,' by Professor Theobald Rogers;—and 'Two of the Saxon Chronicles, Parallel with Supplementary Extracts from the others,' edited, with Introduction, Notes, and a Glossarial Index, by Professor Earle.

MESSRS. BLACKWOOD AND SONS have now ready: 'A Visit to the Cities and Camps of the Confederate States,' by Fitzgerald Ross, Captain of



# THE READER.

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Hussars in the Austrian Service;—and 'Biographical Sketches of Eminent Soldiers of the Last Four Centuries,' by the late Major-General John Mitchell, edited, with a Memoir of the Author, by Dr. Leonard Smith. They announce a uniform edition of 'Narratives of Arctic Voyages and Cruises in Japanese and Malayan Waters,' by Captain Sherrard Osborn, in three volumes, to be sold separately;—'Military Operations Explained and Illustrated,' by Colonel E. B. Hamley, R.A., late Professor of Military History, Strategy, and Tactics at the Staff College;—'The History of Scotland, from Agricola's Invasion to the Revolution of 1688,' by John Hill Burton;—A Second Series of 'Essays on Social Subjects,' from the *Saturday Review*;—'The Iliad of Homer,' translated into English Verse in the Spenserian Stanza, by Philip Stanhope Worsley, M.A., Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford;—'Comparative Geography,' by Carl Ritter, late Professor of Geography in the University of Berlin, translated by W. L. Gage;—and 'Geology as a Branch of General Education,' an Address, by David Page, F.R.S.E., F.G.S., &c.

MESSRS. BLACK, of Edinburgh, announce a new edition of their 'General Atlas of the World,' with Corrections to 1865, containing all the Recent Discoveries and New Boundaries, accompanied by an extensive Index, and New Introductory Description;—'Black's Guide to the Channel Islands (Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark),' edited by David Thomas Ansted, M.A., F.R.S.;—'The Secrets of Angling for Trout and Salmon,' by A. S. Moffat, author of 'Reminiscences of Otter-Hunting,' illustrated with numerous Woodcuts of Fishing-Tackle, &c.;—'A System of Modern History' (to be completed in other three parts): Part I. Rise of the Modern European System, by S. H. Reynolds, Fellow and Tutor of Brazenose College;—and 'The Fatherhood of God: being the First Course of the Cunningham Lectures delivered before the New College, Edinburgh,' by Dr. Candlish, Principal of the New College.

MESSRS. EDMONSTON AND DOUGLAS have just ready, in 2 vols., 8vo, with Maps and numerous Illustrations on Wood, 'Frost and Fire, Natural Engines, Tool-Marks, and Chips; with Sketches Drawn at Home and Abroad by a Traveller';—in one vol., small quarto, 'Mystifications,' by Clementina Stirling Grahame, edited by John Brown, M.D.; and a new edition, in one vol., 8vo, of 'Life in Normandy: Sketches of French Fishing, Farming, Cooking, Natural History, and Politics, Drawn from Nature.'

MESSRS. HURST AND BLACKETT are about to publish: 'Historic Pictures,' by Mr. Baillie Cochrane;—'William Shakespeare,' by Cardinal Wiseman;—'Violet Osborne,' a novel, by Lady Emily Ponsonby, author of 'The Discipline of Life'; and 'The Curate of Sadbrooke,' a novel in three volumes.

MR. BENTLEY will publish in April 'The Exodus of the Western Nations,' by Viscount Bury, M.P.;—'A General History of Music, from the German of Dr. Schlüter,' revised by the author;—'Our Charlie,' a novel, by Vere Haldane; and a popular edition of 'Ladybird,' by Lady Georgiana Fullerton, author of 'Too Strange not to be True,' &c., forming the new volume of 'Bentley's Favourite Novels.'

MESSRS. BELL AND DALDY have sent us the fifth volume of their carefully-revised edition of Miss Strickland's 'Lives of the Queens of England,' which forms the new volume of *Bohn's Historical Library*. They announce a translation of 'Homer's Odyssey,' in blank verse, by the Rev. George M. Musgrave; and a tale entitled 'Sydonie's Dowry,' by the author of 'Mdle. Mori,' 'Denise,' &c.

We have received from Messrs. Asher and Co. a copy of 'Neue Essays über Kunst und Literatur von Hermann Grimm,' containing: Ralph Waldo Emerson; Die Akademie der Künste und das Verhältniss der Künstler zum Staate; Berlin und Peter v. Cornelius; Alexander v. Humboldt; Dante und die letzten Kämpfe in Italien; Herrn v. Varnhagen's Tagebücher; Raphael's Disputa und Schule von Athen, seine Sonnette und seine Geliebte; Der Verfall der Kunst in Italien. Carlo Saraceni; Die Cartons von Peter v. Cornelius; Göthe in Italien.

We have also to notice the ninth volume of Documents Inédits concernant la Compagnie de Jésus, publiés par le P. Aug. Carayon;—Gaston-Phébus, Comte de Foix et Souverain de Béarn, par J. M. Madaune;—Légendes et Traditions Foreziennes, par Frédéric Noélas;—the first volume of M. J. Maissiat's Jules César en

Gaule;—and the first volume of M. Feullet de Conches' Louis XVI., Marie-Antoinette et Madame Elisabeth, Lettres et Documents inédits.

AN important book on the history of the Jews in the Middle Ages, in which the views of Zunz and Geiger are materially modified, has recently been published at Vienna, by Dr. Ludw. Oelsner, under the modest title of 'Schlesische Urkunden zur Geschichte der Juden im Mittelalter.'

M. A. CARAYON has just published an octavo volume of some 300 and odd pages, under the title of Prisons du Marquis de Pombal, Ministre de S. M. le Roi de Portugal (1759—77), Journal publié par A. Carayon.

Two large volumes, each of upwards of 400 pages, by Don Juan Valera, under the title of Estudios Críticos sobre literatura, política y costumbres de nuestros dias, form a valuable addition to modern literary history.

AN important sale, consisting of the duplicates of the University Library, is announced to take place early in May, at Jena.

MILK-WEED, the *Asclepios Syriaca*, is, according to the *New York Weekly Tribune*, a substitute for cotton. 'We have been shown,' says the editor, 'several specimens of textile fabrics woven from the seed-inclosing fibre which fills the pods of the plant well known as Milk-Weed, and botanically named the *Asclepios Syriaca*. These fabrics are very soft and pleasant to the touch, as would be expected, but seem also quite firm and strong, as would not be expected. Mr. James P. M'Clellan, of Brooklyn, has patented inventions whereby this substance is utilized. It takes dyes admirably—much better than cotton—and sheds its seeds without ginning or other difficult labour.'

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THE HOLY SEPULCHRE, JERUSALEM.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—In a controversy covering such an extent of ground, and ranging through so great a length of time, as that concerning the site of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, minor difficulties are sure to spring up here and there, not very important in themselves, but sufficiently so to prolong the discussion after all the main points have been decided.

Among these, one of the most perplexing has been the mention, by the Bourdeaux Pilgrim, of the 'Porta Napolitana,' and his assertion that a person going from Sion towards this gate had the Sepulchre on his left hand. Those who were opposed to my views immediately jumped to the conclusion that the Porta Napolitana must be the Damascus Gate, because Nablous (Neapolis) was north of Jerusalem. It was in vain to suggest that if the gate had such a local designation, it would have retained it, and it must have appeared again at some subsequent period, which was not the case. From its disappearance and other circumstances, it appeared to me much more probable to assume that it was the name of the gate of the new city—the 'new Jerusalem' mentioned by Eusebius, and others—and that it was dropped when the city ceased to be new.

A new turn has now been given to the discussion by the publication of a little book by Dr. Titus Tobler, entitled 'Theodericus de Locis Sanctis.' St. Gallen, 1865. As an appendix to this, he adds a description of Jerusalem by some anonymous author, who, if not quite, was nearly contemporary with the Bourdeaux Pilgrim—inasmuch as he describes a state of things absolutely identical, and which could not have existed, at all events, subsequently to the Persian Conquest.

The question, it is true, is somewhat complicated by interpolations in the MSS. of a later date. It is not necessary to enter on these discrepancies here, as I shall have an opportunity of quoting the whole and explaining them in a little work now in the press. Meanwhile, however, the following extract may be interesting to your readers:—

Ad Portam Neapolitanam est Prætorium Pilati. Ubi Christus a principibus sacerdotum judicatus fuit. Inde non procul est Golgotha vel Calvarie locus ubi Christus filius Dei crucifixus fuit, et primus Adam ibi sepultus fuit et Abraham ibi Deo sacrificavit. Inde quasi magni lapidis jactu versus occidentem est locus ubi Joseph ab Arimathia Domini Jesu Corpus Sanctum sepelivit. Ibi est ecclesia a Constantino rege speciose fabricata.

The position of the Prætorium of Pilate is perfectly well known. It was the Turris Antonia, or some building closely dependent upon it. Even the most strenuous advocates of the present traditions admit that it was eastward of the Arch of the Ecce Homo. The Porta Neapolitana was

attached to it, and therefore in the exact position I always contended for. This being fixed, the position of the other churches, as described by our author, accords in the minutest detail with the localities I assigned to them sixteen years ago, and thus the only historical difficulty of whose existence I am aware is at once swept away, and we have besides a direct contemporary testimony to the correctness of the views I have always maintained.

As I have my pen in my hand, there is one other quotation I would like to make from this book; not that I consider it of much importance as compared with the rest of the evidence, but others may. After describing minutely the Dome of the Rock, and transcribing its inscriptions, which were then (A.D. 1172) in Latin and from the Bible, though now in Arabic and from the Koran, Theodericus goes on to describe the various Temples of the Jews, of which he considers this the last successor, and adds: 'Post hoc (the destruction of the last by Titus) ut paulo ante dictum est (the same assertion three pages earlier) hoc Templum quod nunc videtur ad honorem Domini nostri Jesu Christi ejusque pie genitricis, ab Helena regina et ejus filio imperatore Constantino constructum est.'

JAS. FERGUSSON.

20, Langham Place, March 28, 1865.

P.S.—If Mr. Garbett would take the trouble of reading what I have written and published on the subject of the Tabernacle, instead of confining himself to a report of what I am assumed to have said in a document I never saw till after it was published, he might have saved himself the trouble of writing the letter which appeared in your columns last week. I beg leave to refer him and your readers to 'Smith's Dictionary of the Bible,' vol. iii., page 1,451, et seq. I may also add that I have read with attention the letter he wrote last week, on the same subject, to the *Builder*. I have failed in my attempts either to verify his references or to understand his proposed restoration of the Tabernacle. The latter task must indeed, without the aid of diagrams, be always nearly hopeless, and never satisfactory.

JAS. F.

AN OLD SCOTCH POEM.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—The interpretation of the expression also *quha vnderstude*, at p. 282, *supra*, is not my own property, but that of Lauder's recent edition. My acceptance of it was, however, advised; as Mr. Hamilton will, I think, be convinced, if he refers to Dr. Hall's annotation. The use of *who* and *quha* for *one*, *any one*, generally with a verb in the conditional mood, is far from infrequent in old English and Scotch; and I could supplement by a dozen instances those which the editor adduces.

Mr. Hamilton, while he 'hardly thinks' that also *quha vnderstude* 'can mean,' according to Dr. Hall's explanation, 'as one should understand, proposes as *He who took our place*.'

When Mr. Hamilton discovers *understand* used in the sense of *substo*, *ὁπίσταναι*, I am ready to grant that he will have secured one leg to stand on. And he will have made out his case completely on showing, additionally, that *quha* or *who* was employed, so early as 1556, as equivalent, save prototically, to *he who*, or rather to *whoso*, *whosoever*. Jeremy Collier's *who=one who*—see 'Johnson's Dictionary'—is, to me, a marked singularity.—Your obedient servant,

THE REVIEWER OF  
'AN OLD SCOTCH POEM.'

March 26, 1865.

To the Editor of THE READER.

For Christie did suffer wyllinglie,  
To saif man Vniuersallie,  
And sched, also *quha vnderstude*,  
Als gret abundance of his blude  
For the pure sely nakit thyng  
As he sched for the Potent kyng.

SIR,—The various interpretations of the above lines of Lauder's suggested successively by the Rev. Peter Hall, by your reviewer, and by Mr. Hamilton, whose letter is given in to-day's READER, are very ingenious, but are all equally unsatisfactory. Yet the real meaning of the passage is very plain. The word '*vnderstude*' signifies simply 'stood under,' and conveys a very obvious idea, derived from the innumerable paintings, illuminations, &c., &c., where sinners of different degree are depicted standing under the cross, whence the cleansing blood drops upon them. The lines mean, therefore, that Christ sheds his blood freely upon whosoever 'stands under'—'has faith in' Him, irrespective of their worldly station.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. J. JOYCE.

36 Gower-street, March 25, 1865.



1 APRIL, 1865.

## SCIENCE

## PROGRESS OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

PROFESSOR KEKULÉ'S manual of organic chemistry is in many respects a most remarkable book. There are not quite two volumes of it in the hands of the public, and some of the most complex families of organic bodies are not yet described. But enough has already appeared to illustrate clearly the general principles adopted by the author, and enough to secure the admiration and gratitude of chemists.

This book gives comparatively little explanation of mechanical operations, or the apparatus which ought to be employed in the preparation of the compounds described. Only in some few cases of important operations, are such particulars given, and the description is there such as to serve as a sample how to construct and work an apparatus for a difficult experiment. The author evidently considers that his business is to make his reader understand the formation and transformation of organic bodies, rather than to conduct the actual operations; and every one capable of appreciating the magnitude of the task actually undertaken, must rejoice at this wise and necessary limitation. Chemistry has of late years been growing so rapidly, and at so many different points, that no small amount of research is needed for the mere collection of the various new results from the original memoirs in which they are described. But Professor Kekulé has not merely collected and arranged facts; he has connected them by rational principles, so as to give to many organic compounds a meaning and interest of which they were previously deficient. His own valuable discoveries have contributed no small amount of new matter to the system.

One of the most salient features of the system of Kekulé's book is the development which it affords to the idea of 'atomicity.' The word atomicity is itself of modern date, and Kekulé is justly held to have contributed more than any other chemist to the systematic introduction of the idea into the body of the science of chemistry.

It is interesting to observe how steadily and rapidly the atomic theory has been gaining of late years in consistency and in extent. A few years ago, some eminent chemists seemed rather ashamed to speak of atoms, and preferred using the term equivalent, which they deemed safer and less hypothetical. But so necessary do we now find it to keep steadily in view the atomic constitution of bodies, in order to understand their transformations and properties, that the word atomicity has been invented for the purpose of describing those properties of atoms which were described by the word 'equivalence,' while keeping still before the mind the fact that the effects referred to belong really to atoms. In fact, it will not do for any one who has to do with chemical changes, to forget for one moment that he has to do with atoms and clusters of atoms.

Chemists have certainly reason to congratulate themselves on being now enabled to dispense entirely with the word equivalent; for besides the radical fault of omitting any allusion to atoms, the term is objectionable, as conveying an idea which is not true. It used to be said that thirty-nine parts by weight of potassium (denoted by the letter K) are equivalent to one part by weight of hydrogen (denoted by the letter H). Yet it was well known that when one part by weight of hydrogen is replaced in any compound by thirty-nine parts by weight of potassium, the new compound is different in nearly all its properties from the original one. Thus Cl H (a molecule of hydrochloric acid) is decomposed by potassium, and Cl K (a molecule of potassic chloride), which is formed by the decomposition, is a neutral, almost inert, crystalline solid, certainly very different from that most powerfully corrosive gas from which it was made, by replacing H by K. Whenever potassium replaces hydrogen, it is quite true that thirty-nine parts by weight of the former replace one part by weight of the latter; but this weight of potassium produces perfectly different compounds from those containing hydrogen in its stead.

A locomotive might be taken off from a heavy train, and a donkey harnessed on in its place. It would certainly sound strange if any one were to speak of the patient quadruped as equivalent to the iron monster, simply because he can be put in the same place. Yet chemists have for some time been using the term equivalent in cases even more inappropriate than this. For many

cases of so-called equivalence differ from one another not in degree merely, but in kind. Thus Cl (an atom of chlorine) used to be spoken of as equivalent to K (an atom of potassium), in spite of the fact that whenever an atom of chlorine takes the place of an atom of potassium, it actually reverses the properties of the compound. Thus we can replace potassium in potash KOH by chlorine, forming hypochlorous acid ClOH, but from a strong base we obtain by the substitution an acid.

According to the classification of elements, now adopted more or less systematically by all the leading chemists, and used in Kekulé's book, chlorine and its analogues, potassium, and the other alkali-metals, hydrogen and silver, are considered as forming one great class, called monatomic atoms or monads. Each of these monads can combine with another sort of monad, but usually in the proportion of one atom to each. Thus an atom of potassium K can combine with an atom of chlorine Cl, or one of bromine Br. But an atom of potassium cannot combine with two atoms of chlorine, or two of bromine, &c.

Professor Kekulé gives, in a foot-note, a pictorial representation of compounds of monads and dyads, by representing each monad by a circle marked by its own symbol, and each dyad by two circles joined together, and marked by the corresponding symbol. Thus, if we represent his circles by lines, Cl being an atom of

chlorine, and K an atom of potassium,  $\frac{K}{Cl}$  represents the compound of the two (potassic chloride).

In like manner  $\frac{O}{S}$  represents an atom of oxygen, and the lines denote its diatomic character.  $\frac{S}{S}$  is an atom of sulphur,  $\frac{Zn}{Zn}$  an atom of zinc, &c. The compounds of oxygen with the monads above mentioned

are thus symbolized:  $\frac{O}{H\ H}$  water,  $\frac{O}{Cl\ Cl}$  hypochlorous acid,  $\frac{O}{K\ K}$  potash,  $\frac{O}{H\ Cl}$  hydric

hypochlorite,  $\frac{O}{K\ H}$  potassic hydrate, &c. The comparison of one of these compounds with a compound of the same monads with other monads, brings into view the difference of

atomicity. Thus water  $\frac{O}{H\ H}$  differs from hydrochloric acid  $\frac{Cl\ Cl}{H\ H}$  by containing the

dyad  $\frac{O}{O}$  in the place of the two monads Cl Cl, and the two atoms of hydrogen are bound together by the dyad, whereas they were quite independent of one another whilst united with the two monads. Reciprocally, when

$\frac{O}{O}$  in the compound  $\frac{O}{K\ H}$  is replaced by Cl Cl, the two atoms H and K, which were bound together by the dyad, become independent

of one another in their new compounds  $\frac{Cl\ Cl}{H\ K}$  and  $\frac{Cl\ Cl}{H\ H}$ . The same principles are extended to the family of triatomic atoms or triads, consisting of nitrogen and its analogues, gold and boron. Each of these atoms combines usually with three monads, or with one dyad and one monad. Sometimes two triads combine with three dyads, &c.

Triads are represented in a form such as  $\frac{N}{N\ N\ N}$  nitrogen,  $\frac{P}{P\ P\ P}$  phosphorus, &c.; and their compounds with monads, such

as hydrogen, potassium, chlorine, &c., have a form like  $\frac{N}{H\ H\ H}$  ammonia,  $\frac{N}{H\ H\ K}$  po-

tassic amide,  $\frac{P}{Cl\ Cl\ Cl}$  phosphorous chloride, &c.

Each triad takes in these compounds the place of three monads.

Carbon has been shown by Kekulé to be tetratomic; and although the discovery has already thrown a flood of light upon organic chemistry, it is evident, from recently-published researches of our author, that we have by no means got all that the development of the idea of tetratomic carbon can give us.

$\frac{C}{C}$  represents a tetratomic atom or

tetrad, and  $\frac{C}{H\ H\ H\ H}$  is its normal compound with hydrogen, called Marsh gas;

$\frac{C}{Cl\ Cl\ Cl\ Cl}$  is the corresponding chloride. Four monads may be replaced in such a compound by two dyads. Thus carbonic acid is

$\frac{C}{O\ O}$ , and carbonic sulphide is  $\frac{C}{S\ S}$ . They may also be replaced by one dyad and two monads, as in the case of

phosgene  $\frac{C}{Cl\ O\ Cl}$ , or by one triad and one monad, as in the case of prussic acid,

$\frac{C}{N\ N\ N}$ . These examples may serve to give some idea of the simplest applications of the theory of atomicity, to the explanation of the structure of those little clusters of atoms which chemists call molecules.

The second great class of elements, called diatomic atoms, or dyads, consists of oxygen and its analogues, calcium, zinc, iron, mercury, and their analogues. Each dyad combines simultaneously with two monads. Thus one atom of oxygen combines with two atoms of hydrogen ( $O\ H^2$ ), or two atoms of chlorine ( $O\ Cl^2$ ), or two atoms of potassium ( $O\ K^2$ ), or with one atom of hydrogen and one of chlorine ( $O\ H\ Cl$ ), or with one atom of hydrogen and one of potassium ( $O\ H\ K$ ), &c. When a compound of a dyad with two monads is compared with a compound of two monads, it is seen that one dyad takes the place of two monads. Thus water  $O\ H^2$  differs from  $Cl^2\ H^2$ , that quantity of hydrochloric acid which contains the same quantity of hydrogen, merely by containing one atom of oxygen in the place of two atoms of chlorine. Not only can one dyad replace two monads in such compounds as hydrochloric acid, but it can also replace them in compounds like  $O\ H^2$ , where they are combined with a dyad. The dyad zinc (Zn) can take the place of the two monads hydrogen in water, forming zinc oxide  $O\ Zn$ , and we see thus a case of two unlike dyads uniting with one another. In all compounds a dyad requires the atomicity of the element or elements combined with it to be equal to its own. Oxygen itself can combine with oxygen, in obedience to the same law.

It must not be supposed that these pictorial representations of atoms are intended by Kekulé as actual portraits of the atoms themselves; they are merely used by the author in a foot note, for the purpose of aiding the mind in following the general laws which he applies to the explanation of the various compounds. Kekulé would certainly be the last to assert that an atom of nitrogen is like a string of three beads, and an atom of carbon like a string of four.

Kekulé's book contains, amongst other novelties, many valuable results respecting the constitution



of organic acids. It corrects the rational formula previously adopted for various acids, and shows the connexion between the number of atoms of alkali-metal which can be neutralized by a molecule of each, and the number of atoms of oxygen in the radical of the acid. The book even in its present incomplete state is one of the most original and masterly productions which chemistry can boast of. But the author is still one of the youngest among chemists of eminence, and is still hard at work discovering, systematizing, and teaching. He is now working on the constitution of the phenyl derivatives, and has already announced a theory of their constitution, which throws a new light upon them.

It were greatly to be desired that Professor Kekulé, who is an excellent English scholar, would superintend the publication of an English edition of his book, for unfortunately, the knowledge of the German language is not yet general among educated persons in this country.

### THE EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH POLE.

DR. PETERMANN has circulated copies of a second letter to Sir R. Murchison, from which we make the following extracts, subjoining the very interesting discussion which followed the reading of the letter, when read at the Royal Geographical Society last Monday:—

‘Having in my conclusions, as contained in my first letter, purposely abstained from theoretical deductions, I also confine myself in the present one to a statement of facts arrived at by actual experience and observations, and that, too, almost exclusively by English explorers.

‘The extensive sea around Spitzbergen is much larger than Baffin’s Bay, or any other Arctic sea as yet visited by English expeditions, and can, as to its extent, only be compared with equivalent portions of the Antarctic Basin. But, taking Baffin’s Bay—the largest expanse of an Arctic sea after that of Spitzbergen—I may ask: Can any reason be adduced, however slight, why it should be more difficult to sail from Sir E. Parry’s furthest in 82° 45’ N. lat. to the North Pole and back, than up Baffin’s Bay from Cape Farewell to Disco Island, or from Davis Strait to Smith Sound, or from Goodhavn to Wellington Channel?—all being the same distance of about 900 miles. It is well known, and Capt. Osborn has also mentioned it in his excellent paper, that the floes which drift down upon Spitzbergen from the north contain in their embrace no icebergs proper, or any such heavy ice as is found in Baffin’s Bay, or even in Davis Strait.

‘The supposition that there existed in the sea between Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlya an ice-barrier, preventing well-appointed vessels to proceed in that direction northward, I have, on a former occasion, shown at some length to be a mere fiction and prejudice, no expedition having ever tried to proceed that way towards the Pole—those of Phipps, Scoresby, Buchan, Franklin, Parry, Clavering, and Sabine not having extended to the east of Bear Island or the southern cape of Spitzbergen.

‘Drift ice, and occasionally pack ice, however, must be expected in the sea north of Spitzbergen, as well as in any other Polar sea; and although it is my firm conviction that ice may at times be entirely absent as far as the North Pole, yet it may perhaps not be easy for a first exploring expedition to hit upon the exact time when that may be the case.

‘My desire, however, is to draw, in the following lines, attention to the fact—1, that even in the highest latitudes, and where ice masses, in the form of drift ice, pack ice, and bergs, are developed and accumulated to the greatest extent, comparatively only a small portion of the sea is occupied by ice, and by far the larger portion free from it and perfectly navigable; 2, that even the most prodigious ice masses, as those occurring in the Antarctic, offer no serious obstacles to an exploring expedition in a sea of any extent, like that of Spitzbergen.’

Dr. Petermann proceeds to rehearse the Antarctic experiences of Cook, Bellingshausen, Baleny, Wilkes, and Sir J. Ross, and continues:—

‘From the foregoing it will be clearly seen, that even in the highest latitudes the ice masses occupy but a comparatively small portion of the sea, that they are of an ever-changing, drifting, and dispersing character, and that they offer no insurmountable obstacle to a well-conducted and efficient expedition; and not only did the different navigators find the pack ice in different localities in the respective years of their cruise, but it was ascertained by Sir J. C. Ross, to change its place and latitude entirely within the short space of a few weeks; thus in the latitudes

where in January, 1841, he had to bore through a heavy pack of 130 miles in width, he found, on his return in the beginning of March, nothing but an entirely clear sea; and in the same way further east, where in February, 1842, he encountered that tremendous pack of 500 miles in extent, he found, only four weeks later, the sea perfectly clear and open, and almost entirely free of ice.

‘There is, indeed, in no Polar Sea of any extent, even right under the Pole itself, any such thing as an ice-barrier, that may not be successfully overcome by an expedition such as would be sent out at the present day; and when an Antarctic Sea, such as that hemmed in by the Polar Alps of Victoria Land, with no sweeping current through it, is so freely navigable, how much more so must be a sea like that to the north of Spitzbergen, traversed by two mighty currents, the one of which clears the sea of the ice, the other disemboguing into it the warm waters of the Gulf Stream? And I may here emphatically repeat the question: Can any one adduce any reason, however slight, why the distance of 435 miles from Parry’s furthest in the open sea north of Spitzbergen to the North Pole should not be quite as easily navigated as the distance of 700 miles from Balleny’s furthest before an ice-barrier to Sir J. C. Ross’s furthest in 78° 10’ S.?’

‘The new expedition ought to be an efficient and unprejudiced one, like that of Sir J. C. Ross, who cared not for the imaginary difficulties and impossibilities created by his predecessors, and trusted to his own courage, energy, and experience, as well as to the “coolness, steady obedience, and untiring exertions of his companions.”

‘A new expedition to the North Pole by way of Spitzbergen might leave port about the 1st of March, before the drifting masses of ice from the Siberian shores encumber the Spitzbergen seas; it would then have the chance to sail, under favourable circumstances, in one stretch to the North Pole, perhaps, in three or four weeks, and arrive at that interesting spot at the beginning of the Polar dawn and summer. Within the six summer months the whole western, the American, boundary of the Arctic Basin, from the northernmost known point of East Greenland to Bering Strait, might be reconnoitred, the Asiatic boundary of it being already tolerably known by Russian research. In September or October one of the vessels might be sent home with tidings of the season’s proceedings and discoveries, the other remaining for the winter in a spot as near as possible to the Pole, in order to make scientific observations, by which the key-stone would be added to our whole meteorological system of the northern hemisphere. The second vessel might return in spring, to assist the other one from the place of rendezvous either to proceed home or continue Arctic research; but an efficient expedition could do much in the way of a running or reconnoitring survey in six summer months, and equally much in scientific observations during one winter.

‘An expedition like this would be exposed to less risk than any Arctic or Antarctic expedition as yet sent out, by having in the harbour of Spitzbergen, in lat. 80° north, a fixed base for constant communication with England, attainable all the year round from the Thames by a fortnight’s sail, the North Pole from the said ports in lat. 80° N. being only at a few days’ distance by screw vessels.

In the discussion which followed,

Admiral Sir George Back said Dr. Petermann’s plausible and very interesting paper had much to recommend it. It might be that there was a current which set to the north between Nova Zembla and Spitzbergen; that Spitzbergen, being within 1,200 miles of England, was accessible from early summer to late autumn; that it had capacious harbours, and abounded in reindeer, in Arctic hares, and in millions of birds; but no man could pretend to say or foretell how far the best-equipped steamer, commanded by the most able Arctic officer, could penetrate in that sea through such openings as the current of winds might produce through masses of closely-wedged ice. Dr. Petermann said the effect of an Arctic sea was to break up the ice at the edge of the pack, but the speaker absolutely dissented from the idea that an expedition could make progress to the North Pole from the west of Spitzbergen. In 1818 he accompanied his friends, Sir John Franklin and Admiral Beechey, in the very first Polar expedition in this century from England. They tried incessantly night and day to force their way to the North; the ships, the *Dorothea* and *Trent*, were greatly damaged, and the men exhausted, but with their utmost efforts

they were never able to get beyond 80° 30’. Then, again, the ice there was not like the ice westward; some of it was five miles in diameter, much of it from 40 to 42 feet in thickness, and only two or three feet above the surface. Still they went on persevering; but after trying ineffectually for three months to penetrate to the north in one direction, they were compelled more reluctantly to abandon the attempt. They then went along the ice from Spitzbergen towards Greenland, going along the edge of the packed ice until they were arrested by impenetrable masses off the coast of Greenland, and in all that space there was not an opening of half a mile. That being so, and the season being far advanced towards the end of September, they were compelled to relinquish the enterprise and return to England. Dr. Scoresby, the captain of a whaler, often told him that he on one voyage got as far as 82° north, but that this never occurred a second time with him. With respect to Captain Osborne’s plan, he would say that if his two vessels should be fortunate enough to find an open season—that was, open weather, with the ice so loose that they could sail among it and take up their station in Smith Sound—and if in the following winter the ice should be found closely wedged and immovably fixed, he saw no reason why a party properly equipped, and not finding any very large spaces of open water, should not succeed in getting very near to the Pole, if not to the Pole.

Admiral Sir Edward Belcher foresaw great difficulty in carrying a vessel round to Smith Sound. On several occasions Government expeditions had failed in that, and he believed the practicability of going up Davis Straits and of getting up to Smith Sound, in the hope next year of going thence further north, was very doubtful. With regard to the expedition to which Sir George Back had alluded, the question was, Did they go the right way? He (Sir Edward Belcher) thought they kept too much towards Greenland, and that they were seeking for whaling-ground, and not to advance the cause of science. In that they made a great mistake. He had no doubt that if Scoresby had pursued a course to the eastward of Spitzbergen, he would have drifted round the Pole. As regarded the sledge system, he much doubted its feasibility. Granted that they secured the vessels the first year, and that sledging operations were duly prepared; if the sea was open in May, as he believed it would be, he would ask if their sledges were to be boat-sledges, fit to pass over open water. If so, the attempt was wilder than that of Parry; and both Richards and Osborn well knew the difficulty attending any such operation. Sir James Ross was accustomed to say that no one could comprehend the severe labour imposed on the men when those boats got into snow. They were to be unloaded, and even then they could scarcely be extricated. On some occasions, when the snow had melted, they were detained for hours, not advancing a mile in two days. He (Sir Edward Belcher) met Baron Wrangel at Petropaulovski in 1826, after his unsuccessful exploration by dog-sledges; and his simple observation, ‘What could we do when we met with water?’ was just what he would put to the sledge projectors. On the other hand, if vessels were sent to Spitzbergen, they would be able to finish and report, if not successful, in one season; recruit and start afresh, as Ross did, in the second; and eventually, he had no doubt, they would be able to go to the Pole and back and return to England within six weeks.

Admiral Collinson said the question of an open Polar sea had its origin in the remarkable expedition of Baron Wrangel from the coast of Asia, and it received confirmation from subsequent explorations; but were not those open holes instead of expansive seas? At Gateshead Sound his (Admiral Collinson’s) sledge sank, and he was obliged to make a great *détour*. There they were convinced that no open sea was in sight. There was a general opinion that because ice wasted away, and abandoned ships had drifted to the southward, there must be vacancy at the back of it, but he contended there was no foundation for such a theory. The progress of the ship *Fox* as she approached the sea increased daily, but the *Resolute*, which was further back in the ‘pack,’ made no progress at all. It should also be remembered that, during winter, while ice was making, it occupied a larger space in the water than when it was made; and therefore they had that remarkable phenomenon, a downward drift without any sea left behind it. With respect to the comparison between the Polar and the Antarctic Seas, he contended that the analogy did not hold good; for in the one there was the most



1 APRIL, 1865.

open expansion of sea, and the other was pent up by continents. We have got through that barrier of ice which Ross penetrated by great energy to the southward, when we reach Spitzbergen; but when we went beyond that we should meet with what he had encountered in latitude 78°—an icy wall. The exploration had better be taken by Smith Sound than by Spitzbergen; by the latter route they would have an opportunity of getting nearer to the Pole by sea; but if they wanted to make progress to the Pole itself, they must hold by the land.

Admiral Ommanney, on the contrary, said he fully concurred in the views of Dr. Petermann, for he was satisfied that the most feasible way of getting at the North Pole was to make Spitzbergen the basis of operations. The objection to Smith Sound was that in the winter Davis Straits and Baffin Bay were filled with ice, which must be cleared away before a vessel could get up; and there was not a year that a whaling-ship was not lost in attempting to get to Smith Sound by this route. With respect to Spitzbergen, however, we had access by an open sea to a base of perfect security for our operations. There was a safe winter harbour; houses could be built there; and while there they could watch their opportunity for penetrating the ice at a favourable moment. There was also plenty of game, and moreover, in case of disaster, they could communicate more easily with England than they could from Smith Sound. Again, there was no comparison, with regard to the scientific results to be attained, between a sledge journey and a ship expedition. The Swedish Government have now, for several seasons, had a body of scientific men surveying Spitzbergen, and it has been recently said that they intended, if a favourable opportunity offered, to make a run for the Pole. Surely the English people would never allow another nation to go in and carry off the greatest prize of Arctic exploration, after having hitherto been considered the leaders in these enterprises.

Admiral Fitzroy made no pretensions to the character of an Arctic navigator; but from the time when Parry, Sabine, and others of that day began their explorations, he had carefully noted the progress made from year to year for a period of forty years. The result of his observations on the subject had been that a great deal too much stress had been laid proportionately upon attempts to make passages by the north-west, and that we had not given sufficient attention or consideration to what was done by the early Dutch, English, and Russian navigators, who in the latter period of the fifteenth and in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries made very successful attempts to penetrate to the north and eastward, and reached very near the North Pole. In 1818 Barrington and Beaufoy, Fellows of the Royal Society, gave very credible accounts of Dutch ships reaching within two or three degrees of the Pole, and of finding there an open sea of comparatively warm temperature, and a swell of the sea indicating that there was no barrier within moderate distance. The object of the Dutch in those days was to pass round what they considered the shortest track to the East Indies by the Arctic Seas, and it was in making those voyages that some of their ships went so far north, that the sea was partly explored near the Pole. Indeed, there was an instance recorded of a ship having gone two degrees beyond the Pole. The result of Captain Maury's considerations, and of his (Admiral Fitzroy's) much humbler observations, was that there was open water at and near the North Pole; and a great deal of open water, as well as a large extent of continental land, near the South Pole. We should be wanting in our duty as a nation if we wilfully wasted the energies of those young men who were anxious and willing to go and explore those interesting regions, important as they were for commercial as well as scientific reasons, if we did not support the efforts of the Royal Geographical Society, and follow the lead of their President, whom they all honoured and esteemed.

The President asked if Admiral Fitzroy was in favour of the Spitzbergen or the Smith Sound route?

Admiral Fitzroy replied he was entirely in favour of Spitzbergen, in the first instance, as a base of operations, and then from Spitzbergen, at the most convenient period, to go to the North and round the North.

Captain Maury said he was in favour of the Smith Sound plan. There were difficulties by both routes; but the main question was, by which route could these difficulties be best overcome? Clearly by that route which would enable them to 'hold on what they got;' and that, he

thought, was not the Spitzbergen route, where, beyond the open water, there was an impassable barrier of ice. But with respect to the other route, if they equipped the ships with all the means and appliances of modern times, the fact that Polar expeditions had been made in sledges, traversing altogether a distance of 40,000 miles, without the loss of a single life, would seem to show that the plan of Captain Osborn was the one most likely to be attended with success. He thought Dr. Petermann had been unfortunate in comparing the Arctic with the Antarctic regions on the score of ice. The climate at the south was marine, and consequently moist; at the north it was continental, and consequently dry. Therefore it could not be argued that, because Ross made such astonishing progress through the icy barriers of the southern seas, that a navigator would make like progress through the icy barriers which surround the open water at the North Pole.

Captain Richards explained that the character of the two routes advocated was entirely different. Captain Osborn had demonstrated the feasibility of reaching the North Pole by sledges. Supposing his expedition to be successful, what would he have achieved? The party would simply go to the North Pole and come back again, and that was all. There was a vast difference between exploring by sledges and exploring by ships. Sledges must go in a straight line, at a speed not exceeding six or seven miles a-day, and the party would see nothing of the regions they traversed beyond the few miles on each side of them. Whereas a ship could sail 100 miles a-day; her course could be varied, in order to extend investigation in various directions; and she could carry a body of scientific men, with all necessary resources. With regard to the respective routes, he thought no sane man would in the present day go up Baffin Bay, and through Barrow Straits, or through Smith Sound, to get into the Polar Sea. There was only one route to take, and that was by the open sea that lay between Greenland and Spitzbergen; and if a Polar expedition were placed under his command to-morrow, he would go from Spitzbergen decidedly.

#### A MODERN COUNTERBLAST AGAINST TOBACCO.

THE GRAND MONARQUE, history tells us, did not smoke, and it was not until the Siege of Maestricht that the horrible *ennui* of the besiegers, or possibly, we should say, of the more philosophical among them, resolved itself into the pregnant question—'Que faire en un bivouac, à moins que l'on ne fume?' Little thought they—those terrible pre-Armstrongites—that *bivouac* was but the first term of a series having *salon* for its *n*, or possibly its *n-1*!

We really thought, from Dr. Richardson's admirable and dispassionate paper on the subject of smoking, read at the last meeting of the British Association, that the habit might be somewhat justified—well, if that is too strong a word, pardoned—and ranged alongside tea-drinking, which 'cheers but not inebriates,' and alcohol-drinking, which does both. But we have now a tremendous out-come from M. Jolly, in a long paper recently presented to the Paris Academy of Medicine, in which we find both statistics and conclusions, the conclusions in the main—and sometimes in terms—contradicting Dr. Richardson's statements; and, as it is not for us to decide when doctors disagree, we will briefly give M. Jolly's conclusions (they are given in greater length in the *Medical Times*), as we have given Dr. Richardson's, and leave our readers—and the doctors—to settle the matter.

We have first an enormous increase of smoking in France. In 1832 the tobacco impost only yielded 28,000,000 francs—having continued at much the same amount since 1792—two-thirds arising from snuff-taking. In 1842 the amount rose to 80,000,000; in 1852 to 120,000,000; and in 1863 to 216,000,000—the amount derived from snuff remaining stationary. The quantities consumed in the different departments vary from 1,795 grammes per head in the Nord to 102 grammes per head in Charente. Taking the mean of the maxima and minima, comprising provinces in which very little smoking occurs, as Bretagne and Limousin, M. Jolly calculates that eight kilogrammes (16 lbs.) of tobacco are annually consumed by each smoker, which is equivalent to 50 or 60 grammes of nicotine per head. Of course, confirmed smokers far surpass this modicum, which, small as it is, is yet "*plus qu'il n'en faudrait pour tuer tout un régiment qui voudrait se mesurer corps à corps avec le tabac plutôt qu'avec l'ennemi.*"

Statistics show that in exact relation with this increased consumption of tobacco is the increase of diseases of the nervous centres (insanity, general paralysis, paraplegia, ramollissement) and certain cancerous affections. Now, although Orientals, Turks, Greeks, Brazilians, and Hungarians smoke to an excessive extent, they do so with almost impunity, from the fact that the indigenous tobacco which they use contains very slight proportions of nicotine, and sometimes none at all; while other nations, such as ourselves, the Swiss, French, Swedes, &c., suffer much more severely. Up to the present time no case of general or progressive paralysis has been discovered in any of the numerous localities of the East, where tobacco of so eminently mild a character, or some succedaneum, is employed. M. Moreau, in a careful investigation which he has made in the hospitals of Constantinople, Smyrna, Malta, and all the Mediterranean islands, has not been able to detect a single case of this kind. 'The cause,' he remarks, 'is plain enough, and eminently physiological. In all the regions of the Levant they do not intoxicate themselves with nicotine or alcohol, or the ambition of fortune or glory, but saturate themselves with opium and perfumes, sleeping away their time in torpor, indolence, and sensuality. They narcotize, but do not nicotine themselves; and if opium, as has been said, is the poison of the intellect in the East, tobacco may one day prove in the West the poison of life itself.'

Another unfortunate matter is the displacement of the pipe by cigars. Hence cancer of the lip; while the predominance of cancer observed in women for almost all the organs ceases, too, with respect to the stomach, which is found to be more frequent in men in the proportion of 53 per cent.

M. Melsens has found, upon the average, a proportion of  $\frac{1}{10}$  per cent. of nicotine held in suspension by tobacco smoke. The mischievousness of such an atmosphere is dwelt upon by M. Jolly, who also holds that general or progressive paralysis—a disease scarcely met with thirty years ago—is making rapid advance under the increased abuse of alcohol and tobacco. Insanity and affections of the nervous centres have enormously increased in France, and this increase is found to be, in men, almost entirely made up of cases of progressive paralysis (now forming more than 60 per cent. of the total cases); and whenever, in the asylums, the history of such cases has been investigated, their dependence on the abuse of tobacco has been rendered obvious. In contrast with this is the rarity with which this form of the disease is met with in female lunatics. Among these paralytic lunatics, soldiers and sailors, who so much abuse tobacco, are found occupying the first rank. M. Jolly's investigations have led him to the conclusion that this abuse of tobacco is far more operative in the induction of this paralysis than alcohol or absinthe.

M. Jolly also draws attention to the diminution in the population of France, especially of men from thirty to fifty years of age and upwards, as compared with women of the same ages, at which diseases of the nervous centres form a far more common cause of death among men than women.

M. Jolly's paper, indeed, is not wholly statistical, or perhaps we should have had explained to us the truly astonishing increase as to mean duration of life in France, in spite of all this smoking. Let us give a table:—

	Males.		Females.		Both.	
	Years.	Months.	Years.	Months.	Years.	Months.
1806—1809	30	6	32	7	31	6
1835—1839	33	5	36	4	34	4
1860	36	0	38	8	37	4

Possibly, he would connect this with the decrease of 'snuffing,' which he tells us, as a contribution to the historical part of his subject, was punished by death in general terms, by Mahomet IV.; hanging, by a Grand-Duke of Moscow; amputation of the nose, by a King of Persia; and excommunication, by Urban VIII. Now-a-days, even 'writing down,' a much more powerful method than any of those we have named, will not suffice, we fear, to prevent smoking, for we hear that M. Jolly considers it inadvisable to demand a vote upon his communication.

#### AFRICAN EXPLORATION.

MR. R. B. N. WALKER some three years since arrived in England from the Gaboon, bringing with him, among other remains of gorillas, the magnificent skeleton now in the Derby Museum. On his return to the African coast he commenced to collect zoological speci-



# THE READER.

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mens, and has met with much success. Some 70 species of birds, some of which are of considerable rarity, and others probably new to science, a new genus of frogs, and numerous other specimens of great interest, have already reached England.

He is again among us, and at the last meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool gave an account of a projected exploration of Equatorial Africa, which he is about to undertake. On his return to the Gaboon, his hunting ground will be those little-known regions lying within seven or eight degrees on either side of the equator. The Royal Geographical Society has agreed to furnish the necessary instruments, and has made a grant of 100*l.* towards paying the expenses of the projected exhibition. The Anthropological Society has also voted a sum to be applied to the purchase of articles for their museum. The sum named is, of course, not in itself by any means adequate for the purpose; but should Mr. Walker meet with such further support and assistance as would lead him to hope for success, he will start next month for Gaboon, as the dry season, which is the proper time for commencing the journey, is fast approaching. Mr. Walker is prepared, if needful, to start alone, as he does not anticipate any great difficulty in the undertaking, the natives, so far as they are known, being less hostile, and the climate less dangerous, than is generally supposed; for, contrary to the usually received idea, that part of Africa lying almost immediately upon the equator is the most healthy of any part of Western tropical Africa; besides which, Mr. Walker is conversant with some of the languages of the native tribes. The main object of this undertaking will be to discover the position of a lake lately reported by Van Heuglin to exist far to the westward of any of the lakes already known. Mr. Walker heard of this lake some five or six years since, from the Fans, and he believes it to be situated near the equator, and some six or seven hundred miles to the eastward of Gaboon.

As for the gorilla, Mr. Walker is of opinion that it exists in the Dahomey country and in Yoruba; and, in fact, in nearly all the country between Dahomey and the Congo, it is by no means so rare as Du Chaillu has represented. It is common enough in Gaboon and in the Camma country, being sometimes found within three or four miles of the sea.

We may mention that Mr. Henry Duckworth, 5, Cook-street, Liverpool, will act as local treasurer to the fund.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE trustees of the Johnson Memorial Prize for the encouragement of the study of astronomy and meteorology propose the following subject for an essay: 'A Discussion of Recent Investigations Relating to Solar Parallax.' The prize is open to all members of the University of Oxford, and consists of a gold medal of the value of ten guineas, together with so much of the dividends for four years on 338*l.* Reduced Annuities as shall remain after the cost of the medal and other expenses have been defrayed. Candidates are to send their essays to the Registrar of the University, under a sealed cover, marked 'Johnson Memorial Prize Essay,' on or before the 31st day of March, 1867, each candidate concealing his name, distinguishing his essay by a motto, and sending at the same time his name sealed up under another cover, with the same motto written upon it. No essay will be received after the 31st day of March, 1867.

THE Rev. J. W. Berkeley has been appointed Botanical Adviser of the Royal Horticultural Society, and the society is about to publish a journal in octavo form, intended to give valuable aid in disseminating information of value among the fellows, and to be devoted to essays and researches on horticultural subjects. This will be edited by Mr. Berkeley, a sure guarantee of its value.

A CELESTIAL atlas, which, if we are not mistaken, will soon find its way to England, has recently been published by Gauthier-Villars. It consists of twenty-six maps, two of which are double, showing at a glance the northern and southern heavens. It contains 100,000 stars; is large enough to be useful, and small enough to be handy. The authorities used are Lalande, Herschel I., Piazzi, Harding, Struve, Bessel, Herschel II., Groombridge, and Argelander, and Lacaille and Brisbane for the southern hemisphere. The projection is the development

of a sphere of 65 centimetres in diameter. The atlas by M. Dien is preceded by an introduction by M. Babinet.

THE interesting binary star  $\delta$  Cygni, which is such a difficult test-object for our best telescopes, has recently been made the subject of observation by Herr Behrmann, of Göttingen (*Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 1,517). According to Mr. Hind's calculations, the companion completes a revolution in about 186 years. The observations used were those of the Herschels from 1783 to 1845. Herr Behrmann has deduced new elements, which are as follows:—

$$\begin{aligned} T &= 1866.3512 \\ \pi - \Omega &= 280^\circ 20'6'' \\ \Omega &= 166^\circ 26'4'' \\ i &= 64^\circ 38'4'' \\ e &= 0.8470 \\ \mu &= -1''.283 \end{aligned}$$

Period of revolution = 280.56 years

$$a = 3.165$$

Herr Behrmann hazards the suggestion, already put forward by Mr. Bishop, that the companion is a variable one. This, perhaps, may account for the fact of the impossibility of separating the stars, even during the period from 1802-26, with the most powerful telescopes, and under the most favourable atmospheric circumstances.

THE Council of the Anthropological Society, and the friends and admirers of Captain Burton, have arranged a public farewell dinner to him on Tuesday next, at St. James's Hall, at half-past six o'clock. The Right Hon. the Lord Stanley, M.P., F.R.S., will take the chair.

THE last bulletin of the Belgian Academy which we have received contains at length M. Ch. Montigny's researches on the index of refraction of white light, refracted without sensible dispersion. The memoir is of great importance. He finds that the refraction of white light, if we suppose it undispersed, is represented neither by the index of D or E, for any medium. He holds that E is not in point of fact the *mean ray*, and he would reserve this title for the ray which represents the propagation of white light; the measure of the dispersive power would then be referred to the position which the white ray would occupy in the spectrum.

THE *Bulletino Meteorologico* of the Roman Observatory for January last contains the introduction of a memoir containing the reduction of the magnetic observations made at that observatory from 1859 to the end of last year.

WE have received a prospectus of the 'Djagatai,' or Eastern Turkish Dictionary, collected and edited by M. A. Vambéry, which is about to appear under the auspices of the Royal Asiatic Society. An accurate knowledge of the Turkish will materially assist us in breaking through the mist that hovers over the history of the Turkish nation, which once played so prominent a part in the history of the world, and of whose origin we know as yet but little. This dictionary, or rather this essay towards a dictionary, comprises the Turkish dialects extending beyond the eastern portions of the Ottoman Empire, and is intended to include the Aderbaidjani, Türkmen and Turkish of Bokhara, Khiva and Khokand, or the Djagatai properly so called. Names of subscribers will be received by the Secretary, at 5 New Burlington-street. The price of the work has been fixed at one guinea.

THE *Courier des Sciences* gives some curious facts relating to some of the animals in the *Museum d'Histoire Naturelle*. In spite of croup, which seems to be the malady *par excellence* of the serpent tribe, there are still living a black trigonocephalus acquired in 1842; and a tree frog and freshwater tortoise, dating from 1846 and 1847 respectively. Eight pythons, which measured on leaving the egg, four years ago, from .45 to .5 metre, have now acquired lengths varying from 2.5 to 3.3 metres; a South American crocodile, which in 1857 was .3 metre in length, now measures 1.4 metres.

ALL too soon after Bond's decease we learn the sudden death of the accomplished director of the Washington Observatory, Captain Gilliss. Astronomy owed him gratitude to no small amount for the reformation which he had brought about in the Washington Observatory since his appointment to its charge in April, 1861. Gilliss's volume of observations of right ascension, with a catalogue of mean places of stars observed during the years 1838-1842, was the first volume of astronomical observations ever published in America, and it was through his exertions that the Naval Observatory in Washington was built; he superintended its construction, bespoke the instruments, and mounted them ready for use. His

most important service to science is, without doubt, the reorganization and development of the Washington Observatory during the past few years, which has exerted a most salutary and effective influence over a wide field. He was about to rise from his bed on the morning of Thursday, February 9, when he died instantly, without a moment's warning, from a stroke of apoplexy, being fifty-three years old.

## SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

### AERIAL LOCOMOTION.

Tottenham, March 22.

THE French have offered a prize of 5,000*l.* for the encouragement of aerial locomotion. All honour to the French nation, which thus seeks to promote the advancement of aerostation! Here in England, where funds are raised in abundance for religious and social purposes, great difficulty is often experienced in obtaining the means of prosecuting scientific undertakings. The British Association, ever ready, in a reasonable way, to assist the modern arts and appliances, cannot be expected to supply grants for all the requirements of ballooning. Three sums of money, during three consecutive years, have already been devoted to meteorological observations in the balloon car, and Mr. Glaisher has made twenty-five distinct sets of experiments for the benefit of science, without any remuneration whatever. What I feel anxious to suggest and to promote, is something of a similar society in London to that in Paris; so that what private individuals have not the power to execute, may nevertheless be performed by the aid of united contributions. I believe there exists in France, at the present time, an amount of enthusiasm on this subject which does their inventors and scientific men infinite credit.

Although, in the ardour of expected success, they thought the time had arrived to 'suppress' the balloon, and supersede it by a navigable machine, yet their inventions were not, in all probability, sufficiently advanced for this purpose, and that may account for their return to the balloon, after having deprecated its further use. In England, on the contrary, we have adhered rigidly to the balloon, and have tried to get some useful work out of that, until the time shall arrive when an aerostal or flying machine can be introduced with something like success. For many years I have thought a great deal about the possibility and way of navigating the air, and am of opinion that the best method to proceed is not by suppressing the balloon, but by using it as a means of testing aerial machines; so that, by a comparison of the movements of the two, some conclusion may be arrived at as to the merits and course of the one.

There is also a way in which I am hopeful that even a balloon can be rendered more serviceable than it is now, and that is by employing such an amount of screw power as shall enable it to rise and descend while it is heavier than the atmosphere it displaces—for instance, if a balloon is very nearly balanced, so that twenty pounds of sand taken out of the car will cause it to ascend, and instead of removing the twenty pounds of sand, machinery is set in motion that will make it rise, then a power is obtained which by inversion may be used to produce a descent; and if this can be managed, why then the theory of being able to do without the loss of gas and ballast is solved, because the balloon could be made to perform a series of dips and curves; and if its elevation could be controlled by the operation of a screw, a certain space could be allowed for expansion, and the neck of the balloon, through which the gas is continually escaping, could remain closed, and the gas would be retained much longer than when the neck is left open, as is the case on ordinary occasions. I am not aware that machinery on the large scale has ever really been used to cause the balloon to ascend and descend mechanically; it has often been talked about, and frequently used with models, but not in a large or practical way. The advantage of additions of this sort would be very great when balloons are used for *reconnaissances*; and whenever I am called upon to make fresh experiments for Government, I shall not neglect this important point relative to balloons.

The application of powerful springs and steam-power has hitherto presented great obstacles; the recent invention of the gas engine clears away a great deal of difficulty, and the period has assuredly arrived when an aerostatic society might deliberate with some prospect of ultimate good.

I have before me now a mass of plans and sketches of aerial machines in every conceivable



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form; many have been sent for approval, and some few are my own ideas, and those of friends who for years have studied these matters. I have no doubt that among them the right road, by the finger-post of one or the other, is pointed out, and that an aerostatic society would separate the corn from the chaff, and do honour to our country.

HENRY COXWELL.

## FORMATION OF ROCK BASINS.

ONE of our ablest living geologists has lately propounded a theory to account for the formation of lakes in rock basins, by attributing it to the excavating power of glaciers. Professor Ramsay, as far as I am aware, has never yet explained the *modus operandi* by which such an excavation can be effected; and as others besides myself may have felt the same difficulty, I wish some advocate of the theory would reason it out. A glacier cuts down the bed of the valley in which it flows; of this there is no question: the ice at the bottom is at the melting point, and consequently a river, summer and winter, issues from the end of the glacier, charged with the mud, and so the detritus is removed. But when the glacier reaches the plain, and begins to excavate, as the theory requires, how is the mud removed? The river cannot flow uphill, though the glacier might be propelled uphill; and unless there be a river, it is difficult to see how the enormous quantity of matter which once filled the lake has been disposed of. Had it been by ordinary glacier action, I should have expected to find at the outlet of the lake a gorge as deep as the deepest part of the lake; that is to say, the lake ought not to be in a rock basin.

Professor Ramsay, to lessen the difficulty of understanding how a glacier can be propelled up from a vast depth, reminds us that the angle of inclination is extremely small: in the case of the Lake of Geneva, which is 1,000 feet deep, only 25'. But I wish the mathematicians would inform us whether the smallness of the angle has anything to do with the matter. The mass of ice which is being thrust uphill resists the pressure with a force which is as its weight (that is, as its length) multiplied by the sine of the inclination. But this is a constant quantity; for as we diminish the angles we increase the length of the glacier, and in exactly the same ratio. In short, the force which is to overcome the resistance and produce motion would be as the depth, without regard to the inclination.

I have here neglected friction; but if we take it also into account, as we must, the case is still worse for the theory: for the smaller the angle, the longer and heavier the mass of ice, and therefore, the friction the greater.

As the formation of rock basins is a most difficult problem, any partial solution is a boon to the geologist; but I wish some able 'Physicist' would tell us whether this is a complete one.

M.

## PROCEEDINGS OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES.

## PARIS.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—March 13.—M. Hermite concluded his memoir on the developments in series of functions with several variables, and another mathematical paper, consisting of a study of differential functions, by M. Guérin, was presented.

A Memoir on Digestion and Alimentation was received from M. Sandras; another, on the Tenia, from M. Fock; while the Treatment of Consumption and Puerperal Fever formed the subject of communications from MM. Churchill and Stein respectively.

M. Maisonneuve exhibited and described a new form of Lithotrite, by which water or a gas can be injected into the bladder without removing the instrument. A new Commutator, serving to connect instantaneously the several elements of a pile, according to the effects required, was exhibited by M. Lequesne.

A long botanical paper, by M. Trécul, dealing with the Lactiferous Vessels of the *Papaveraceæ*, was also read. He points out that there are two types of structure and distribution of the lactiferous vessels in the *papaveraceæ*. In the first type the vessels surround the fibro-vascular bundles of the stalks and leaves; in the second they only exist in the sub-liberian tissue of the same bundles. All previous authors have referred all *papaveraceæ* to the first type. The author describes several genera, showing this notion to be erroneous. He re-asserts that the direct communication between the lactiferous vessels and the fibro-vascular elements is now

placed beyond all doubt. It is now a question whether all the elements of the latex, or only a part, is given over to the elements of the wood. Among the chemical papers were the following: M. Chevreul, historical notice of the ideas entertained respecting air, in its relations with the composition of bodies. In concluding this memoir he reviews the ideas and experiments of Priestley, Scheele, and Lavoisier, giving to the first the praise of being the first to recognize and determine the properties of oxygen. M. Berthelot, 'On the Caloric Phenomena which Accompany the Formation of Organic Combinations.' This second part deals with the formation of aldehyds, acids, ethers, amides, &c. M. Menschutkin, 'On the Acetopyro-phosphates.' M. Salet, 'On the Formula of Liquid Chloride of Cyanogen.' The author has made careful determinations of the vapour density, which he finds corresponds exactly to the formula  $CyCl$  Wurtz determined for it. A curious example of isomerism is afforded by Serrulla's gaseous chloride of cyanogen, the formula of which is also  $CyCl$ .

## BRUSSELS.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—March 4.—M. Landzweert, of Ostend, and M. Rodigas, of Gendbrugge, transmitted the results of their observations on the periodical phenomena of animals and plants for the year 1864. M. Ad. Quetelet communicated the contents of a letter he had received from M. Florimond, of Louvain, giving an account of a meteor which was seen on the 15th of February. It was also witnessed at other places by several members of the Academy.

The following memoirs were received, and were referred to committees:—

'On the Skeleton of the Anterior Extremity in the Cetacea,' by Dr. C. van Bambeke; 'On a Peculiarity in the Nervation of the Leaves of several Species of the Genus *Cratægea*,' by M. Alfred Wesmæel; 'On the Preservation of Organic Substances,' by M. Pienkowski; 'A New Theory of the Motion of a Free Body,' by Dr. Folie. The vacancy in the National Biographical Commission (Botany and Agriculture), caused by the death of M. Kickx, was filled up by the election of M. Coemans.

The report on M. Swaart's paper, 'On the Action of Sodium Amalgam on Coumarin and Helicin,' was brought up by M. Kekulé. The following are the results of the investigation: Coumarin, the aromatic principle of the Tonquin bean, when exposed to the influence of sodium amalgam in the presence of water, splits up, and furnishes salicylic acid as a principal product. Helicin, which is produced by the oxidation of salicin, when treated in the presence of water with sodium amalgam, absorbs hydrogen, and becomes transformed into helicoidin. The memoir was ordered to be printed in the *Bulletin*.

MM. Duprez and Ad. Quetelet presented their report on M. Alexis Perrey's memoir on the Earthquakes of 1863, together with supplements for the years 1842-62. For the last twenty years M. Perrey has been occupied in collecting notices of the earthquakes which have taken place on the surface of our globe. He has also added the accounts of these phenomena found in ancient authors, so that a collection of his memoirs forms an indispensable requisite for the study of the subject. The Academy paid a high tribute to M. Perrey's work, and hoped that before long he would publish the conclusions to which his studies have led him.

M. Melsens made some remarks on gun-cotton, in continuation of a paper on the same subject read at the previous meeting. He also communicated some facts relative to the preparation of sulphurous and chlorosulphuric acid, which latter he was enabled to prepare in large quantities, without any difficulty, even in the dark. A plan for the arrangement of the lightning conductors in the Hôtel de Ville was also submitted by him, and which he requested might be referred to a committee.

## VIENNA.

IMPERIAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—Feb. 15.—Professor Kvicala, of Prague, communicated the second part of his 'Contributions to the Criticism and Elucidation of Sophocles,' and Professor Mussafia, a memoir entitled 'Il Codice Eugenio ed il Codice della R. Biblioteca di Stoccarda della Divina Commedia.' From Professor J. A. Tomaschek a memoir was received on 'The Highest Jurisdiction of the German King and Empire in the Fifteenth Century.'

Feb. 16.—Professor Heasiwetz reported on the continuation of his investigation of the resins carried on in conjunction with Dr. Barth. He

described the products of the oxidation of benzoin, dragon's blood, and aloes, by means of fusing potash. Professor E. Fenzl communicated preliminary diagnoses of five new species of plants from eastern Soudan. The species are *Lamprodithyros Russegeri*, *Vallisneria Ethiopica*, *Cadalvura Spectabilis*, the type of a new genus most nearly related to *Kaempferia*, *Adenium Speciosum*, and *Maërva (Niebuhria) Ethiopica*. Professor Schrötter exhibited a specimen of metallic indium, and described the spectrum of this new metal. Dr. Gustav C. Laube mentioned the recent discovery of a new form of Encinite in the beds of S. Cassian, distinguished from all other known forms by the possession of forty arms. This will probably constitute the type of a distinct genus, but Dr. Laube proposes for it the provisional name of *Encrinus tetarakotadactylus* (probably instead of *tessaraktontadactylus*). The Report of the 16th February also contains a table of the results of observations at the Imperial Central Establishment for Meteorology and Terrestrial Magnetism during the month of January.

## REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—March 22.—Mr. W. J. Hamilton, President, in the chair. Mr. Turner, Mottingham, Kent, was elected a fellow. The following communications were read:—

1. 'Notes on the Caves of Gibraltar.' By Lieutenant Charles Warren, R.E. Communicated by the Secretary of State for War, through Sir R. I. Murchison, K.C.B., F.R.S.

The principal caves at Gibraltar are St. Michael's, Martin's, Glen Rocky, Genista, Asylum Tank, Poco Roco, and three under the signal station, on the eastern face of the rock. The author describes the salient features of St. Michael's Cave, stating that it is a portion of a transverse cleft through the rock, and was probably open to view at no very remote historical period; and he briefly noticed the cave at Poco Roco, which he considers to be a portion of the fissure which extends from Bell-lane, in the town, to the village of Catalan Bay, the noise of blasting having been heard on more than one occasion through the apparently solid rock. In conclusion, Lieutenant Warren offered his services in the event of a geological survey of Gibraltar being undertaken.

2. 'On the Asserted Occurrence of Human Bones in the Ancient Fluvial Deposits of the Nile and the Ganges, with Comparative Remarks on the Alluvial Formation of the Two Valleys.' By the late Hugh Falconer, M.D., F.R.S.

In this communication the author brought together the few instances on record of the occurrence of mammalian fossil remains in the valley of the Nile; and instituted a comparison between the alluvial deposits of the Nile and those of the upper part of the valley of the Ganges which had come under his own observation. According to certain statements, fossil human bones have been met with in both of these subtropical valleys; and Dr. Falconer remarked that at the present time the consideration of the general inferences to which these cases lead may probably be of some use.

After discussing at some length the cases in which human and other mammalian bones had been stated to occur in the valley of the Nile, Dr. Falconer described the general features of the alluvial deposits of the valleys of the Ganges and Jumna, stating what organic remains had been found in them. In a comparison of the two regions, Dr. Falconer observed that there is a striking analogy between the alluvial deposits occurring along the banks of the Nile on the one hand, and the Ganges and Jumna on the other, the most obvious being the great abundance, in both cases, of argillaceous-calcareous concretions, forming an impure kind of travertine, and in the lowermost beds horizontal deposits of the same material; but that in its poverty of vertebrate remains the former, so far as it has been explored, is a remarkable contrast to the latter.

Dr. Falconer then reverted to an opinion expressed by Sir Proby Cautley and himself many years ago—namely, that the *Colossochelys Atlas* may have lived down to an early epoch of the human period, and become extinct since; and he concluded with some general observations on the question of the antiquity of the human race, suggested by more recent discoveries.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—March 16.—Professor A. W. Williamson, Ph. D., F.R.S., President, in the chair. Dr. W. Johnson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Mr. George Jones, 106 Leadenhall-street, were elected fellows.

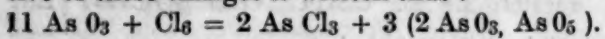


# THE READER.

1 APRIL 1865.

Professor J. A. Wanklyn read a paper 'On Vapour Densities,' in which he advocated the expediency of determining the density of volatile substances at the lowest temperature consistent with the production of truly gaseous vapour, and insisted upon the advantage of mixing the vapour with a known proportion of a permanent gas. The author likewise urged the adoption of a doubled formula for acetic acid; but this recommendation was warmly contested by the President and Professors Frankland and Odling.

An account of 'The Action of Chlorine upon Arsenious Acid,' by Professor C. L. Bloxam, was read by the Secretary. The author's conclusion may be thus stated—viz.: That the action of chlorine upon arsenious acid at a moderate heat consists in the oxidation of one portion of arsenious acid at the expense of another, the arsenic of which is converted into terchloride, whilst the arsenic acid which has been thus formed combines with the remainder of the arsenious acid to form a transparent glass, having the composition  $2 \text{AsO}_3, \text{AsO}_5$ , which may also be produced by heating arsenic acid with an excess of arsenious acid. The equation descriptive of these changes is written thus:—



The President remarked upon the interesting nature of the author's communication, and referred to an anomaly observed in the vapour-density of arsenious acid.

Professor A. H. Church exhibited some fine specimens of Melanconite, and of the new Cornish mineral Tellingite, the analysis of which he had lately described. The author likewise made a statement respecting the action of aqueous nitrate of silver upon ebonite, which was afterwards commented upon by Professor Frankland and Mr. Spiller.

**PALÆONTOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.**—March 24.—*Annual General Meeting:* Mr. W. J. Hamilton, President, in the chair.

The Secretary read the reports of the council and the balance-sheet, showing the satisfactory state of the Society's finances.

The ballot for the council and officers was taken, and the following four gentlemen, Dr. Bigsby, Mr. Busk, Dr. Duncan, and Dr. Meryon, were elected members of the council in the room of the retiring members, Mr. Brady, Sir Rod. I. Murchison, Mr. Davidson, and Mr. McAndrew; and the following were elected officers for the ensuing year: *President*, Mr. W. J. Hamilton; *Hon. Secretary*, Rev. Thomas Wiltshire; *Treasurer*, Mr. Searles V. Wood.

In the course of the observations which he addressed to the meeting, the President called attention to the present satisfactory condition of the society. A large proportion of arrears had been recently collected, and the balance-sheet showed that whilst the society had commenced the last year with a balance of only 70l., they had ended with one of upwards of 210l. He stated that since the first establishment of the society, eighteen years ago, they had spent in their publications about 11,700l.; and, pointing to the beautiful series of illustrations on the table, which were being prepared for the volumes for 1863 and 1864, which would be ready for distribution in the course of the present year, he observed that it was not possible to have spent such a sum more usefully for the progress of geological and palæontological investigation. He also stated, with reference to some complaints which had been made, that, if the next volume for 1863 should be published in the course of the spring, and that for 1864 before the close of the year, he thought no one could have any just cause of complaint on the score of dilatoriness in publication. At the same time, he felt it necessary to call attention to the desirableness of increasing the number of members, as the value of each annual volume must depend on the number of subscribers.

## LIVERPOOL.

**LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.**—Feb. 6.—The Rev. C. D. Ginsburg, V.P., in the chair. Messrs. W. Vernon, T. H. Vernon, J. Newton, D. Hebson, and W. Rowlandson, jun., were elected members.

Mr. T. J. Moore announced that several very interesting zoological collections from the West Coast of Africa had recently been presented to the Derby Museum—viz., a collection of birds, reptiles, fish, insects, &c., from Lagos, collected and presented by Mr. R. B. N. Walker, corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London; a specimen of the potto (*Pterodicticus potto*), and a series of fish from Bossumprah

River, collected and presented by Mr. H. T. Ussher, Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General at Lagos, through Mr. Walker; and a collection of dried fish, &c., and examples of three species of finches and their nests, from Bathurst, River Gambia, presented by Mr. J. Lewis Ingram, Queen's Advocate, Bathurst. Mr. Moore exhibited the birds and nests from Mr. Ingram. The specimens exhibited consisted of the following: A male and female Rufous-necked weaver bird (*Ploceus textor* Gmelin), and nest, somewhat bottle-shaped, formed of coarse grasses, and built on the fork of a bush; the local name of this bird at the Gambia is that of palm bird; nest and birds taken Dec. 19. A male and female crimson-eared Bengalee (*Estrelida phœnicotis*, Swainson), and nest, formed of a fine grass, and loose and open in construction; nest and birds taken Dec. 19. A male and female short-tailed crimson weaver (*Euplectes franciscanus* of Isert), (*Ignicolor* of Vieillot), and three nests; the Jolloff name of this species is *Coomba Ting-ting*, and one of these nests is labelled as follows: 'Nest of the male *Coomba Ting-ting*: helives separately from the female bird, who has a nest of her own. The nest appears to be unfinished, but it is quite complete.' These nests are made of rather coarse grass externally, and lined with finer grass; the shape is a long oval, with the entrance at one side near the top, a few grasses being bound round the lower curve of the mouth to strengthen and distend it. One of the two nests of females is attached to two nearly parallel twigs at the sides of the entrance, which thus look like two greatly prolonged door-posts; the two other nests have had their attachments removed. The birds were taken December 19. The nest of the male was taken November 7, those of the females November 7 and December 9; the last contains two eggs of a uniform pale blue colour. The nest of the male is somewhat slighter built than that of the female. Mr. Moore also exhibited on behalf of Mr. R. E. Stewart a very simple and most effectual method of aerating aquaria. The sucking end of an india-rubber enema is plunged beneath the surface of the water of the tank to be aerated, by working vigorously with the hand, and holding the enlarged or compressible portion of the enema, a current of water is produced and directed back to the tank, carrying with it innumerable air bubbles of minute size.

A paper was read by Mr. William Ferguson, F.L.S., F.G.S., on 'The Geology of the Aberdeenshire Coast,' with a notice of the occurrence of chalk and greensand fossils.

Feb. 20.—Mr. J. A. Picton, president, in the chair. The following were elected members: Rev. Alexander Gordon, Mr. D. M. Lalcaca, Mr. Albert H. Samuel, and Mr. Charles Robert English.

Mr. Moore exhibited a small but rare crustacean, presented to the museum by Mr. J. O. W. Fabert. It belongs to the family *Leucosiada*, and agrees precisely with the species described by Dr. Leach in his 'Zoological Miscellany' in 1817, under the name of *Ixa inerma*, but which Professor Bell, in his monograph of the family published in the 'Linnean Transactions' for 1855, considers to be (as with several other forms described as distinct species) a variety only of the *Ixa cylindrus* of Fabricius.

A paper was read by the Rev. Joshua Jones, M.A., Oxon (Principal of the Liverpool Institute), entitled, 'The Classics: their True Position and Value in Education.'

## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

### MONDAY, APRIL 3.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 2.—Albemarle Street. General Monthly Meeting.

ASIATIC, at 3.—5, New Burlington Street. 'The Ritualistic Life of a Hanefi Muslim in Turkey': Mr. J. W. Redhouse.

ENTOMOLOGICAL, at 7.—12 Bedford Row.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS, at 8.—9 Conduit Street, Hanover Square.

MEDICAL, at 8.—32a George Street, Hanover Square.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 4.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 4.—Albemarle Street. 'On Recent Acquisitions to the British Museum from Rhodes, &c.': Mr. C. T. Newton.

CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—25 Great George Street, Westminster. Discussion upon 'Drainage of Paris' and 'Metropolitan System of Drainage.'

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—John Street, Adelphi. 'On Some of the Most Important Chemical Discoveries made within the last Two Years' (Cantor Lectures): Dr. F. Grace Calvert.

PATHOLOGICAL, at 8.—53 Berners Street, Oxford Street.

PHOTOGRAPHIC, at 8.—King's College, Strand.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—John Street, Adelphi. 'On Food for Cattle': Professor J. Coleman.

GEOLOGICAL, at 8.—Somerset House. 1. 'On Some Tertiary Deposits in the Colony of Victoria, Australia': Rev. J. E. T. Woods. 2. 'On the Chalk of the Isle of Thanet': Mr. W. Whitaker, of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. 3. 'On the Chalk of Buckinghamshire, and on the Tottenham Stone': Mr. W. Whitaker. 4. 'On the Chalk of the Isle of

Wight': Mr. W. Whitaker. 5. 'On the Character of the Cephalopodous Fauna of the South Indian Cretaceous Rocks': Dr. F. Stoliczka. Communicated by the Assistant-Secretary. PHARMACEUTICAL, at 8.—17 Bloomsbury Square.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 6.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 4.—Albemarle Street. 'On Recent Acquisitions to the British Museum from Rhodes, &c.': Mr. C. T. Newton.

ROYAL SOCIETY CLUB, at 6.—St. James's Hotel.

ANTIQUARIES, at 8.—Somerset House.

CHEMICAL, at 8.—Burlington House.

LINNEAN, at 8.—Burlington House. 1. 'On the Flora of the Desert of Sinai': Mr. R. M. Redhead. 2. 'On the Vegetation of the Western and Southern Shores of the Dead Sea': Mr. B. T. Lowrie.

ROYAL, at 8.30.—Burlington House.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 7.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 4.—1 Burlington Gardens.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 8.—Albemarle Street. 'On the Atomic Theory': Dr. Hofmann.

PHILOLOGICAL, at 8.—Astronomical Rooms, Somerset House.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 8.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Albemarle Street. 'On the Nervous System': Professor Marshall.

ROYAL BOTANIC, at 3.45.—Inner Circle, Regent's Park.

## ART.

'WORK,' AND OTHER PICTURES, BY MR. FORD MADDOX BROWN.

MR. F. M. BROWN has long held an honourable place in his profession. One of the most thoughtful and conscientious of that group of painters whose influence has given a new character to English art, and amongst whom his great knowledge and large experience are held in the highest esteem, he is comparatively unknown to the public at large, who are necessarily ignorant of all excellence that is not, in some form or other, made clear to their apprehension. Mr. Brown has been an infrequent exhibitor—why, does not clearly appear, as his pictures, when exhibited, have been marked at once by thoughtful observers as the productions of a highly-cultivated and reflective artist. A great reception was given to the 'Lear and Cordelia' when first exhibited, some fifteen years ago—to the 'Wickliffe before John of Gaunt,' of about the same date—to the great work of 'Jesus Washing Peter's Feet,' and to 'The Last of England,' sent to the International Exhibition in 1862. Still, for reasons which we must conclude to be valid, Mr. Brown has stood aloof, in company with other painters of great repute, from the Royal Academy Exhibition; and now, following Mr. Holman Hunt's example, he submits the crowning effort of his career, the large picture of 'Work,' to the verdict of the public, under more favourable conditions than can be secured in any heterogeneous exhibition. A well-lit gallery, at 191 Piccadilly, affords the opportunity for the display of the picture, which it was the immediate object of the artist to bring before the public; at the same time he has been able to bring together his most important works, and to place them in juxtaposition with it, and with the help of an annotated catalogue to give a tolerably clear notion of his practice and intention.

The advantages of what may be called a private exhibition are obvious enough: the artist is able to make his own arrangements, and to display his work to the best advantage, and the spectator is not distracted by the claims upon his attention of a dozen surrounding pictures of conflicting pretensions. We may also gratefully note, that in Mr. Brown's exhibition he is not disturbed by an officious individual, intent upon getting his signature to a claim for twenty guineas hereafter, to be balanced by an artist's proof from an engraving of the work which he has come to look at. But there is something also to be said, perhaps a great deal, in favour of competitive exhibitions; no really great work is unfitted to bear the ordeal of our annual exhibition, and we fully believe that both Mr. Holman Hunt's 'Christ in the Temple,' and Mr. F. M. Brown's 'Work,' would have gained for their authors an enhanced renown, had they stood the test of the annual national exhibition before being consigned to quasi private galleries.

The picture of 'Work' has been elaborately described by Mr. Brown himself in the annotated catalogue of his works. It was commenced twelve years ago at Hampstead, and the action of the picture is represented as taking place in the main street of the town. The spot is well known as that in which the roadway, near the heath, has been sunk below the footway which gives access to the houses, and on the sloping bank of which a row of elms cast their pleasant shade. The upper road is occupied by the main action of the picture. A party of 'navvies' have possession of the greater part of it, being engaged in making excavations; and they furnish the painter



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with the types of physical 'work.' Leaning against the rail which skirts the edge of the pathway are two men, whom it is not difficult to recognize as the great brain-workers of this day, looking on, and conversing, maybe, on the results of modern civilization; whatever the subject of their talk, it is easy to note that upon it they are not agreed. The pot-boy, who is ministering to the thirsty needs of the navvies, and the lady, who believes she is providing them with living water by scattering tracts wholesale amongst them, may also be looked upon as in some sense workers, unconsciously and consciously fulfilling what they believe to be their duties. The unthrifty element is represented by a ragged wretch, who has never been taught to work, but who makes out a miserable living by the sale of ferns and chickweed, gathered miles away in the country; by a group of half-clad children, ever in mischief and usually quarrelling, uncared for by either parents or parish, growing up as units of the dangerous classes. On the bank, in enforced idleness, Irish haymakers in quest of work are stretched smoking or sleeping. The rich, who have no need to work, are represented by a young lady, whose attention is absorbed by her scarlet-coated Italian greyhound, as it passes under a shower of lime shaken through a hodman's sieve, and by a gentleman and his daughter on horseback, descending the hill, who, probably, after all, do their appointed work as well as the navvies do theirs. The remainder of the picture is filled with incidents common to the street life of London, all of which have been carefully studied in reference to the idea which the painter has sought to express in his picture.

Many, perhaps most people, will ask what he did mean to express; and to those who look for a particular story, with an apt moral, this picture will probably appear to be a hieroglyphic. The real meaning of it will be best appreciated by those who, looking daily upon the reality of which this is the counterfeit, are induced to reflect upon the moral conditions of modern society. The interpretation of it each reflective mind will provide for itself. The nobleness of honest work, the one condition upon which no curse awaits; the curse of toil or over-work; the defective organization which obliges many to seek unprofitable labour, or to dream away their lives in idleness; the dangerous growth of uncared-for children; the frail nature of the links that bind modern societies—these are the questions suggested to the thoughtful observer by this remarkable picture. In seeking to explain his meaning in an annotated catalogue, it appears to us that the painter has rather obscured it. Certain we are, that those who cannot extract some such meaning from the work itself will derive very little assistance from any written description of it.

Apart from the mental faculty displayed in the invention of the work, the painting is distinguished by technical qualities of the highest order, while its effect is lessened by the want of one important condition. In expression, generally, it is not second, so far as we know, to any work of modern times. There are exceptional figures, as, for instance, the beautiful lady who owns the Italian greyhound; and to some extent we feel disposed to coincide with a generally-expressed objection to the representation of the two sages who stand for types of modern thinkers; but in all the other characters which fill the composition, no objection can fairly be sustained to the truthfulness with which the resemblance to living types has been set forth. The picture is full of fine passages of colour, the result not of mere feeling or taste, but of a scientific plan. The action of the figures, necessitating more than usually difficult foreshortening, has been rendered in a manner that marks the well-trained draughtsman; and the mere imitation of surfaces, so much and so easily appreciated, has rarely been carried to such perfection.

The defect of the picture, though it does not seriously detract from the interest it inspires, is still, pictorially speaking, detrimental to its effect. It has no atmosphere, no breathing space; the figures, so to speak, stick together, and it is difficult to realize the distance between the Bohemians in the foreground and the equestrians in the distance, and between these and the hill-road behind them. This regardlessness of atmospheric effect cannot proceed from insensibility, as we may assure ourselves by an examination of Mr. Brown's exquisite studies of landscape in the same room, but it is characteristic of some of his most important pictures; notably so in the large work of 'Chaucer

at the Court of Edward III.' and in the picture called 'Pretty Baa Lambs,' where a dark sunless sky presses upon a beautiful sunlit group of figures. We do not know why the painter has disregarded this delightful quality in the larger pictures, because we find that in both the carefully finished studies for them he has represented aerial effect with wonderful delicacy and truth.

Of those pictures that have already been publicly exhibited it is unnecessary to speak; although among these are to be found the most important works in the gallery. 'Christ Washing Peter's Feet' is one of the finest English pictures ever painted; and such an interpretation of Shakspeare as the 'Lear and Cordelia' has never been approached in force and tenderness at once by any painter who has hitherto attempted to render the meaning of the play. Of the later productions now exhibited for the first time, we may direct attention especially to the small picture of 'Elijah and the Widow's Son,' to 'King René's Honeymoon,' and to the designs made for Messrs. Dalziel's Bible. The conception of the first subject is altogether original, serious, and suggestive. We quote Mr. Brown's account of the way in which the illustration of the subject, after much thought, presented itself to his mind. We should first say that the Prophet is bearing the restored child down the flight of steps leading from the death chamber to the basement, where the widow, on her knees, waits to receive him. 'The child is represented in his grave-clothes, which have a far-off resemblance to Egyptian funeral trappings—having been laid out with flowers in his hands, as is done by women in such cases. Without this, the subject (the coming to life) could not be expressed by the painter's art; and till this view of it presented itself to my mind, I could not see my way to make a picture of it. The shadow on the wall, projected by a bird, out of the picture, returning to its nest in the bottle which in some countries is inserted in the walls to secure the presence of the swallow of good omen, typifies the return of the soul to the body. . . . As is habitual with very poor people, the widow is supposed to have resumed her household duties, little expecting the result of the Prophet's vigil with her dead child. . . . The costume is such as can be devised from the study of Egyptian, combined with Assyrian and other nearly contemporaneous remains. The effect is vertical sunlight, such as exists in southern latitudes.'

This, which is described as 'a finished study for a picture, is one of Mr. Brown's finest works, and may be taken as an example of the higher qualities of his mind, recommending him to our notice as one of the most thoughtful and cultivated painters of our time. In curious contrast to such a work as this, and altogether suggestive of a crank in his mind, is a portrait head of a child, called 'Toothless' which is thus described by Mr. Brown in his catalogue: "'A Modest Village Maidie.'" . . . The title which I first gave this drawing, "Old Toothless," was objected to by several. All I can say is, that I have heard the very words used by different ladies to children when changing their teeth; written under a picture it seems to offend. I have softened it to "Toothless." . . . Again I have been urged on every side to replace the *growing* tooth by a *fully developed* one. I confess I am here at a loss. How any thinking person can in his mind confound together a law of nature that we have all undergone, in itself full of promise, and symbolic of much, with such an accident and defect as a broken tooth in a grown person is to me inexplicable.'

That Mr. Brown cannot see, with the rest of the world, that a child is disfigured by the loss of its teeth, whether it be occasioned by accident, or in the course of nature, is less surprising than that he should not be able to feel that the unanimous verdict being against him on a question not of principle, but of beauty, he was bound to submit to it. Many processes of nature in our organization are beneficent and highly important that are not the less aesthetically disagreeable and ugly. Mr. Brown's reasons for painting what we must agree with his friends to call a defect, might be applied equally well to the representation of processes of nature, which even he would deem unpictorial. This head of a toothless child is ugly, and every one turns away from it, feeling that his taste is offended by it. Who cares or knows whether the tooth is growing or has been knocked out?

We should not have mentioned this example, were it not, that in it that peculiarity of his mind is fully displayed, which, to a certain extent, detracts from the unquestionably high

qualities so strikingly displayed in his important works. Unfortunately, also, peculiarities are more easily appreciated than excellence; but in marking those of a great artist, we must not forget that his merits far outweigh his defects, any more than we should fail to perceive the light of the sun through being occupied with the spots on its surface.

## ART NOTES.

## THE FOURTALES PICTURE GALLERY.

The first portion of these celebrated pictures were sold on Monday last. The second part of the sale took place yesterday. Amongst the most interesting paintings sold on Monday we noticed—Bonington: A view of the seashore at low water, sold for 6,500*l*. Boilly: Moving Day; a space before a house crowded with people loading carts with furniture; in the distance a funeral procession, 1,800*l*. Boucher: A young artist at work in a garret, a young woman with a child in her arms, a boy grinding colours, and a young pupil with a portfolio under his arm, 7,000*l*. Coignat: Brigands at Prayers before a Madonna, 2,400*l*. Cuyvel: Young girls at play, 3,400*l*. David: Portraits of Pope Pius VII. and Cardinal Caprera, painted from the originals for the coronation picture of Napoleon, 17,800*l*. Decamps: A Soldier of the Grand Vizier's Guard, at the gate of his master's palace; near him two men, one with the head-dress of a Dervise, 8,000*l*. Delaroche: St. Cecilia accompanying herself on a small organ, held by two angels kneeling before her, 21,000*l*. By the same: Cardinal Richelieu, exhausted by illness, ascending the Rhone in a barge from Tarascon to Lyons. By the same: Cardinal Mazarin in bed, dying, amidst a numerous company of the lords and ladies of the Court—one of his nieces at his bedside, showing him the cards in her hand; both pictures sold together, 80,200*l*. By the same: A young girl, 4,000*l*. By the same: The Temptation of St. Anthony, the Saint clasped by a young woman, 10,200*l*. Deshayes: A young woman in deshabille, lying on a couch, 2,300*l*. Girodet-Trioson: A young woman plucking grapes, 2,700*l*. Greuze: 'Innocence,' a young woman holding a lamb in her arms, 100,200*l*. By the same: The head of a young girl, 5,200*l*. Guérin: A Storm; in the foreground a steamer making for the shore, and further off a large three-decker struggling with the wind, 1,500*l*. Haman: A scene from the Seraglio, 2,600*l*. Ingres: Raphael, seated on a stool, with the Fornarina on his knee, looking at his canvas, on which he has just drawn the outlines of his mistress's features. Leaning against the wall is the picture of the Madonna, known as the 'Seggiola'; and in the distance, through an open window, a view of a part of the Vatican, 9,500*l*. Isabey: Return from fishing, 3,000*l*. Laneret: Three young women bathing, and a fourth seated on the bank preparing for the bath, 7,300*l*. Meissonier and Français: A view of the Park of St. Cloud, with figures, 12,500*l*. Robert: The Brigand's Family, 2,100*l*. By the same: A Girl of Ischia meeting her lover, a young fisherman, who is seated on a rock near his boat, playing on a mandoline, 4,100*l*. Roqueplan: A Watermill, 1,030*l*. Rosa Bonheur: A Shepherd tending sheep and goats, 9,100*l*. Ary Scheffer: A Young Mother with her Children, 6,500*l*. Vernet (Claude): A Tempest, with a ship struck by lightning, 1,100*l*. Vernet (Horace): The Meeting of Tamar and Juda (Genesis xxxviii. 14), 35,200*l*. By the same: A young Roman Woman, 4,000*l*. Prudhon: Helen and Paris reconciled by Venus, a drawing in crayon, 4,900*l*.

MESSRS. FOSTER, of Pall-mall, on Wednesday and Thursday last, sold by auction the well-known collections of pictures formed by the late Mr. Richard Gibson Reeves, of Hawthorn House, Birmingham. Lot 29. W. Müller: The Baron's Hall—Francis I. at Fontainebleau, size 42in. by 24in., 101 guineas. 34. By the same: Scene at Gillingham, twilight, 25in. by 31in., 125 guineas. 37. By the same: View at Venice, 25in. by 20in., 127 guineas. 44. David Cox: Carting Vetches, 20in. by 14in., 120 guineas. 45. W. Müller: Pont Hoogan, North Wales, painted on the spot, 21in. by 28in., 256 guineas. 50. David Cox: Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire, 20in. by 14in., 155 guineas. 51. By the same: The Peat Gatherers Returning, storm in the Welsh mountains, 20in. by 14in., 228 guineas. 53. W. Müller: Scene in the Desert, Arabs at prayer, size, 27in. by 15in., 310 guineas. 55. T. Creswick, R.A.: The Old Mill at Chagford, Devonshire, 35in. by 41in., 165 guineas. 57. Charles Baxter: An Italian Beauty, 19in. by



25in., 85 guineas. 58. David Cox : Lane Scene in Cheshire, size, 14½in. by 10½in., 135 guineas. 61. J. Constable, R.A. : The Opening of Waterloo-bridge, a finished sketch for the celebrated picture, 38in. by 33in., 78 guineas. 62. David Cox : Solitude, romantic Welsh scenery, 30in. by 36in., 84 guineas. 70. W. Müller : Shipping off Venice, the Fête Day of Santa Maria, 53in. by 41in., 285 guineas. 71. J. Sand, A.R.A. : The Gentle Student, 24½in. by 29in., 84 guineas. 74. T. Sidney Cooper, A.R.A. : Cattle in Canterbury Meadows, 38in. by 26in., 265 guineas. 76. E. M. Ward, R.A. : West's First Effort in Art, 22in. by 17in., 185 guineas. 77. John Phillip, R.A. : An Interior—Meal-time, a mother and her child, size, 20½in. by 26½in., 455 guineas. 78. W. Müller : The Slave-market, Cairo, a composition of 40 figures, exhibited at the Exhibition at Manchester, size, 39in. by 24in., the gem of the collection, and one of the last pictures painted by the artist, 1,060 guineas. The 78 pictures realized 6,275*l*. OLD MASTERS.—104. Isaac Van Ostade: Exterior of a Flemish Ale-house, 28in. by 26in., 23 guineas. 109. Ferg: A Country Fair, with many figures, 2lin. by 14in., painted on copper, 31 guineas. 111 and 112. J. G. Platzer: The Artist's Studio, and the companion picture, The Sculptor's Studio, with numerous figures, size of each picture, 24½in. by 17in., 58 guineas. 115. Van Balen: Virgin and Child, with angels, in a landscape, the wreath of flowers, fruit, &c., by Van Kessel, the background by Breughel, size, 27½in. by 38in., 21 guineas. 116. J. G. Platzer: The Assumption, painted on copper, size 31in. by 56in., 56 guineas. MODERN PICTURES.—122 and 123. W. Müller: The Girl with the Pet Lamb, and the companion sketch, Boy and Guinea Pigs, size of each, 25in. by 31½in., 38 guineas. 124. W. J. Grant: Casting out Devils at Gadara, size, 52in. by 61in., 21 guineas. 125. W. Müller: A Landscape, Frost Scene, 28½in. by 18in., 71 guineas. 126. R. S. Lauder: Christ Walking on the Sea, 37in. by 57in., 64 guineas. 138. David Cox: View of Dover, 15in. by 10½in., 77 guineas. 145. Richard Dadd: Edith Discovering the Dead Body of Harold on the Field of Hastings, painted for Mr. Reeves, size, 30in. by 21in., 60 guineas. 146. By the same: The Haunt of the Fairies, 27½in. by 35½in., 150 guineas. 148. By the same: Syrian Water-carriers, exhibited at the Manchester Exhibition, size, 60in. by 36in., 160 guineas. 150. By the same: A Series of twenty-eight original sketches, illustrating Lord Byron's 'Manfred,' 87 guineas. The second day's sale produced 1,250*l*.; total of both days, 7,525*l*.

At Messrs. Christie's rooms, in King-street, St. James's, on the 24th ult., the collection of Water-colour Paintings formed by Sir Hugh Hume Campbell was dispersed by auction. Lot 39. George Cattermole: Scene from 'Macbeth,' sold for 65 guineas. 40. By the same: The companion drawing, 185 guineas. 43. S. Prout: The Forum at Rome, 150 guineas. 45. By the same: The Temple of Peace, 135 guineas. 45. J. M. W. Turner, R.A.: Exeter from the River, engraved in 'England and Wales,' 490 guineas. 48. David Cox: A Cloudy Day, 315 guineas. 49. By the same: Fish Boys, a sea piece, 120 guineas. 50. By the same: Pond and Rushes, 105 guineas. 51. By the same: Landscape, with timber waggon, 206 guineas. 52. By the same: Missing the Flocks, 195 guineas. 53. By the same: The companion, Collecting the Flocks, 265 guineas. And 54. Bolton Abbey, 380 guineas.

On the same day the following lots, which did not belong to Sir Hugh Campbell, were also disposed of: 55. T. M. Richardson: Borrowdale, Cumberland, with figures and cattle, 198 guineas. 57. Louis Haghe, 1862: The Soup Kitchen in the Olden Time, 80 guineas. 69. Copley Fielding: Glen Lochy, Loch Tay, 240 guineas. 75. Birket Foster: A view in Hampshire, 84 guineas. 97. Copley Fielding: The Bay of Naples, 71 guineas. And 99. Samuel Prout: The City of Metz, 107 guineas.

## MUSIC.

### THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

THIS old association opened its fifty-third season with a performance of which the following was the programme:—

Symphony, Letter I.....	Haydn.
Aria, 'Tu che sei quel dolce fiore'—'Faust' ..	Spoehr.
Concerto, Violin, No. 9 ..	Spoehr.
Scena from 'Love's Triumph' ..	Wallace.
Overture, 'Ruler of the Spirits' ..	Weber.
Symphony in B flat, No. 4.....	Beethoven.
Air from the 'Domino Noir' ..	Anber.
Overture, 'L'Alcalde de la Vega' ..	Onslow.

A selection like this, framed on the old well-established type, shows how closely the Society adheres to the purposes it has set before itself. That these purposes are not so important as they once were, is not the fault of the institution. The 'Old Philharmonic' has now become the representative rather of conservatism than of progress in the musical art, and it occupies the position with dignity. In the days when it stood alone, or almost alone, as an organization for bringing and keeping before the world the high orchestral music, it represented progress; that now it fills another place in the world of art, is not due so much to its having been stationary—for it has not been stationary—as to the fact that the world which surrounds it has advanced. Its friends, too, may claim, and not without fair show of reason, that it has done its own share in promoting the advance which has thus altered its position. Fifty-three years ago it had the strongest possible *raison d'être*. The *raison d'être* is weaker now, but it is, we grant, still a sufficient one. Fifty-three years ago—it is a long span in the life of so young an art as music—Beethoven had composed only six of his symphonies. The 'Pastoral' had appeared a year or two before. The compositions which were to be the crown of that immortal group, which were to show Beethoven for himself, as distinct from the Beethoven who was the expansion of Mozart and Haydn, were not yet written. The early years of our young society thus coincided with one of the critical epochs in the history of art. To play the seventh, eighth, and ninth symphonies was to be more than progressive, it was to be revolutionary. To help in teaching the world to admire, love, and enjoy these great products of genius (not allowing it to forget, meanwhile, the precious inheritance of an earlier time), was a noble function, and the Philharmonic Society fulfilled it well, having its ups and downs on Fortune's wheel, but, on the whole, prospering as it deserved. How the state of things has altered, we can all see for ourselves. In place of having a little world to be converted to Beethoven, we have the great world enjoying him. The 'unplayable mystification' of that day has become for this the monumental type of greatness. The conservatisms of our time 'take their stand' upon music which conservatism of forty years ago declared an outrage. This change has of course brought with it a change of position for societies like the Philharmonic. It is still right that we should have highly-trained orchestras to play such programmes as we have quoted above to select audiences, but an institution which fulfils this duty, and this only, must not think itself slighted if it no longer holds the highest place in the world's regard. The function it performs now is comparatively a humble one. The recognition of musical art, and the enjoyment of great music, is happily not now confined to some few hundreds of well-to-do dilettanti; there is a greater world, of which these dilettanti are but a fraction. For these, however, let the Society exist and flourish. Flourish it does and will, no doubt, for any number of years to come, if managed, as it now is, liberally and honourably; the prestige of a titular supremacy, the dignity of old age, surrounds it with a kind of respect which no younger rival—or fellow-worker, for that is the better name—can win within say a couple of decades at least. In a rich community like ours it need never fear a shortening of its subscription roll. But if it means to enjoy the dignity of a state of comparative repose, it must be content *not* to bear away the palm which is only to be won by vigorous enterprise. The 'Old Phil,' in short, to give it the familiar name, has retired from active service. It is doing its turn of garrison duty, and musters only for commanding officers' parades. Very pleasant parades they are; but meanwhile the campaign is going on, and other corps are going to the front.

Thinking thus of the position of the Society, we do not complain that it does no more than it does. The definite policy which it at present follows forbids any great expansion of its plan; any fundamental change of policy would probably hazard its existence; and it would not be fair to judge an institution by a standard different to that which it proposes to itself. A more pertinent question, and one not to be evaded (for the credit of English music is involved in the answer), is, how stands the Society in the matter of executive efficiency? Taking the late concert as a test of this, it is impossible to say that the result is satisfactory. If the aim of the Society be to present the most

\* As Bernard Romberg, the great violoncellist, called one of Beethoven's 'Rasoumofski' quartets.

perfect performance of the great orchestral masterpieces, we can only say, without the least desire to be unfriendly, that the performances are not perfect—are, indeed, a very long way short of perfection. It is by no means strange that this should be the case. The present band, as all know, is of but recent formation, and it takes a long time to train an orchestra to a high degree of finish. The constant practice of the few past seasons, aided by the excellent Operahouse discipline of Signor Arditì (for the two bands are understood to be virtually one), has done much to give precision and unanimity of play; but the Philharmonic cannot yet boast the dash, the *aplomb*, the vigour of stroke, which are necessary elements of *first-rate* excellence. Its tone is undeniably rough—rough, that is, by comparison with the best accepted standard; and as for its 'light and shade,' its power of giving the more delicate touches of orchestral expression, why its conductor might not unreasonably echo the exclamation which is said to have once burst from the lips of Mr. Costa in the same room, 'Am I to live a hundred years before I hear a *pianissimo*?' While such deficiencies exist, we cannot say, as we should like to say, that the Philharmonic band represents the best producible English art, in its own kind. It would be pleasant to have an orchestra in London occupying the place of that of the 'Conservatoire' of Paris. The average Frenchman cares little enough for Beethoven or Mozart, yet every Frenchman of decent education feels a pride in that institution, knowing by common report that it is one of the best things of the kind—the best he, of course, thinks, in Europe. Why is it that in England we have not a like body, holding by right of unquestionable excellence the place of honour in the musical world—a central representative of the highest musical art? And why does not the Philharmonic Society occupy this proud position? What body has a better title to it? And how should it set about trying to reach it? We do not profess to be able to find answers for these questions, but we do not believe that they are unanswerable. If the playing of the Philharmonic band is not first rate, there must be a reason or reasons why. There are many points of management in which, without venturing on disputed ground, and without discourtesy to its directors, we may confidently say that amendment is still practicable. We will mention for the moment one only. The room where the performances are held is decidedly too small. We are aware that the example of famous continental societies may be quoted on the other side; but the force of these instances disappears when we remark what it is which has made the Queen's Concert Room in Hanover-square an unfit home for a modern orchestra. It must be remembered that the orchestra of Haydn and the orchestra of Beethoven are very different things—that the space which is sufficient for the one is not sufficient for the other. Drums and trumpets in such a room as that in Hanover-square make more noise than music. In a *ff. ensemble* the 'strings' are entirely lost—they might as well be silent; and yet this balance could not be restored, as an increase of stringed tone would, in the average, and within such a limited space, aggravate the evil. The symphony at the Philharmonic is best heard, in fact, from the side drawing-room. In the concert-room it is impossible to get the impressions of delicacy, softness, and repose, without which a thorough enjoyment of the music—in the slow movements especially—is impossible.

For music of another kind, for quartet playing, for singing without orchestral accompaniment, for the performance of a moderate-sized choir, the Queen's Concert Room is without doubt the best and most comfortable place in London: nothing better could be wished. But the admirable resonance which fits it for these purposes makes it unfit to hold a full band. For this purpose it is *too* resonant. Old associations may naturally make the Society reluctant to change its place of meeting; but no band could make orchestral music of the post-Mozartian era sound as it should sound in this small space.

But there are other and more difficult questions than this which would have to be met if the Society should seriously take in hand the task of raising their performances to the highest attainable pitch of excellence. Upon these we will not touch, but only say that there seems to be no sufficient reason why, if the Society attempt in earnest, it should not succeed; and it is only because the distinct recognition of deficiencies is the first step towards advance that we venture to speak of them openly here, without reserve. The Phil-



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harmonic has, as it deserves to have, such a strong body of fast friends, that there is no fear of damaging its interests by fair criticism. Of this opening concert we need say little. Perhaps its most interesting feature was the concerto played by Herr Straus. This gentleman's handling of his instrument is masterly; his style is an exemplar of all the merits more peculiarly designated by the term 'classical'; it is finished, temperate, expressive, and full of intelligence. Spohr's delightful concerto made in his hands a deep impression on an audience that is not easily impressed. The vocal music, of which Mr. Renwick and Miss Louisa Pyne were the exponents, was not happily chosen, but the noble symphony in B flat, with its exquisite *adagio*, was as welcome as ever. That *adagio*, by the way, is sometimes hurried, and sometimes dragged. Professor Bennett's 'reading' here, as throughout the work, was that which probably a vast majority of Beethovenists would recognize as hitting the true mean appropriate to the movement.

The next concert is to be on Monday evening, when none who can help it should be away, for Herr Joachim is set down for Mendelssohn's concerto.

### MUSICAL NOTES.

#### THE OPERAS.

Within a few days only after the issue of his programme, Mr. Gye has opened the doors of Covent Garden. The now familiar opera of 'Faust e Margherita' introduced on Tuesday night two of his new vocalists, Mdlle. Berini, described as being from 'La Scala,' at Milan, and Mdlle. Honoré, a contralto, coming, as the programme has it "from the Imperial Opera at Moscow." Mdlle. Berini is a clever soprano of medium force, she has a voice of bright tone and pleasing moderate compass, and acquitted herself well in this trying part of *Margaret*, though a little overweighted in some of the more exacting scenes, as in that of the 'Penitence' and the very arduous finale. Mademoiselle Honoré, mezzo-soprano, with a singularly sweet and flexible voice, won the favour of the audience unmistakeably as *Siebel*. Signor Mario was there, looking as fascinating a *Faust* as last season, though in a different costume, and carrying his hearers captive as of old by the exquisite charm of his voice, which was on this night at its (present) best. Lack of tenors, the old want, is the only weak point in Mr. Gye's programme for the season. He has not Signor Tamberlik this year, and Signor Naudin is kept in Paris by 'L'Africaine'; the weight of the season therefore falls on Signor Mario, who thus, contrary to precedent, has to do ante-paschal duty, and on Herr Wachtel, who takes the part of *Manrico* and *Arnoldo*; Signor Brignoti, now at the Salle Ventadour, being the only other tenor of European fame. But what is the use of complaining? Mr. Gye cannot make tenors! In the other departments the list is ample and promising. The names of Patti, Lucca, Carvalho, and Isabella Galletti, head a strong corps of sopranos. The basses are numerous enough for any possible demand, including MM. Ronconi, Graziani, Atri, Tagliafico, and Schmidt, and other well-known artists. The contralto parts are provided for chiefly by new comers. Among the operas promised—we omit those of minor interest—are 'L'Africaine,' 'Figaro,' (with a splendid cast) and 'Il Flauto Magico.' If the two last are produced, the opera-goers will not complain even if the delay in Paris should compel London to wait another year for 'L'Africaine.'

THE Crystal Palace Concerts have never been more interesting or more pleasant than this season. That of Saturday week began with a little symphony of Haydn's (No. 7, in C), which was as well played as it was charming, and ended with the picturesque and inspiring finale to the first act of 'Euryanthe,' Madame Sherrington taking the soprano solo and leading the solo-quartet. Mr. Cusin's 'Wedding Serenata' was also performed. This day week the programme included Mozart's little comic operette, the 'Schauspieldirektor,' and Mr. J. F. Barnett's Symphony, the same which was played a season or two back by the Musical Society. The operetta (the only previous performance of which in London within our memory was one given by a French company at the St. James's Theatre) was admirably played; Madame Parepa and Madame Rudersdorff representing the rival *prime donne* whose contentions, and the managerial troubles therefrom arising, made up the fun of the whole piece. Like most of Mozart's comic music, how-

ever, the 'Schauspieldirektor' is more beautiful than humorous. Its first scena for soprano is conveyed in a bit of melody far too pure and sweet to represent mock pathos. The Choral Symphony of Beethoven is announced as in rehearsal, and the 'Queen of Sheba' recital is to be given, we understand, early in May. But perhaps the most noticeable of all the improvements in the musical arrangements of the present season is the placing the daily symphony in the 'second fyfte' of the day's performance, which begins at half-past four. These daily performances furnish a really wonderful amount of good music. The selections for last week, for instance, included the following large orchestral works: Haydn's Symphonies in G minor and in D (the Parisian), Lachner's Suite in D, Beethoven's 9th Symphony (first three movements), orchestral extracts from 'Tannhauser,' 'Philemon and Baucis,' 'Euryanthe,' 'La Nonne Sanglante,' one of Meyerbeer's Torch-marches, and divers overtures. Truly the folks about Sydenham should become a musical population.

THE Monday Popular Concert of last week opened with one of Schumann's quartets, that in A minor. Never in our recollection has a work by this composer been received at these concerts so warmly on its first hearing. This was due, in part, to the magnificent playing of Herr Joachim, who 'led' with the utmost decision, and with a breadth of style to which no words could do justice. A vigorous demand was made for the repetition of the *scherzo* and *intermezzo*, and an equally strong impression was made by the exquisite episode on a pedal bass, which occurs shortly before the end of the finale. The concert of this week was a 'Mendelssohn night,' the programme being made up of the Overture, the Trio in C minor, the posthumous Quintet in B flat, and the Capriccio for piano in F sharp minor. This last, a short but wonderful piece, was played wonderfully by Madame Goddard. On the full satisfaction given by the other pieces, under the Joachim leadership, we need not dilate.

A MUSICAL contemporary, *The Orchestra*, has undertaken, we are glad to see, the task of thoroughly exposing the mean and disgraceful frauds perpetrated in connexion with what are appropriately called 'monster' concerts. The matter is one which it is not pleasant to deal with, and which, as it concerns the profession more nearly than the public (though the abuses referred to are bringing shame and damage to both), can be best handled in the columns of a paper filling the special position occupied by *The Orchestra*. We will only say here, that if both the profession and the press do not, after this public exposure of a scandal long notorious to persons concerned in musical matters, seize the opportunity of utterly extinguishing the whole system, it will say very little for the boasted honour of either body.

THE Musical Society's season opened on Wednesday evening with a concert given on a scale of—even to this association—unusual splendour, and before an audience which completely filled St. James's Hall. We must defer for the moment any remarks on Mr. Smart's 'Dunkerron,' which was the main feature of the concert.

### MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

APRIL 3 to 8.

MONDAY.—Philharmonic Second Concert, Hanover Square Rooms, 8 p.m.  
Popular Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.  
TUESDAY.—Miss Hogarth's Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY.—New Philharmonic First Concert, Choral Symphony, &c., St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.  
THURSDAY.—Concert at 51 Portland Place, for benefit of Gentlemen's Home, p.m.  
SATURDAY.—Crystal Palace Orchestral Concert, 3 p.m.  
Popular Concert, St. James's Hall, 3 p.m.  
Beethoven Society's First Morning Concert, Willis's Rooms, 3 p.m.  
OPERA.—Covent Garden, to-night, 'Guillaume Tell,' Monday.

### THE DRAMA.

TWO farces—the one produced at the Adelphi, and the other at the Strand—are the only absolute novelties of the week. The one at the Adelphi has the great farce recommendation of making one laugh, although the comicality is produced more by the actor than the author. When Mr. Toole puts his head, covered with a cotton nightcap, out of a door of a bedroom, and is evidently otherwise in undress, all parts of the house are put into a broad titter. When, after calling for his Sydenham suit, he is informed it has been stolen, and that nothing is left to him but a very scanty dressing-gown and a pair of bluchers, they break into a laugh; and when

his hot water is brought and set so far out of his reach that, in order to avoid exposing himself, he has resort to his umbrella and its hooked handle to get it within his reach, they burst into a roar. This roar is continued when he appears in his scanty dressing-gown, and insinuates that he has to walk on to the pier to meet his dear wife, and hesitates as to thus appearing in public. More laughter is produced by his appropriating a portmanteau, and dressing himself in a complete jockey's suit of pink sarsnet jacket, unmentionables a world too wide for him, and top-boots and spurs, the latter of which inflict upon him every time he lifts his foot that goading intended only for the horse. With what comicality Mr. Toole contrives to inform these crude incidents must be seen to be believed. What may be termed the stage-stock fun of his being mistaken for the rider of the horse and arrested, and his equivocal with the amateur jockey, are very poor humour, compared to his own vagaries in the situations just mentioned. How he mistakes persons, and how he is made to ride the race—though, unfortunately, not in the sight of the audience (would it had been at Astley's!)—is the common farce business, but the genius of the actor turns it into humour. There is a most unnecessary plot of a rich uncle and a steeple-chasing doctor, and of a wife, all of which go for nothing; for the only thing cared for is the 'droll' Toole, who manages to express comical agony, and absurd distress, and frolicsome nonsense, so that everybody laughs. It is almost superfluous to say that the piece is called 'The Steeple Chase,' and is by Mr. Maddison Morton.

The piece at the Strand is a comedietta—that is, it is a little bit of a comedy, showing the distresses of a very innocent modern Sappho or Iphigenia, who, in the shape of a very charming merchant's daughter, has fallen in love with a Cymon who is clerk to her father. They have been brought up together, and the young girl has felt friendship ripen into a warmer feeling, while the clerk is as cold, brother-like, and respectful as ever. In vain she indulges, and even gets her father to consent to, her passion; the clod will not ignite; the log will not burn; and the joint efforts of father and daughter are unavailable. The extreme dulness of the steady young man, and the pretty petulance of the loving young lady, were very well enacted by Mr. Parselle and Miss Milly Palmer. The situation is put an end to by the arrival of a London lover, a sprig of nobility, who makes such hot love, that the smouldering passion of the Cymon bursts out, and after a due season of jealousy and teasing, the true lovers understand each other. The blundering father, played by Mr. Turner, is amusing, in his total misunderstanding of the feminine caprices of his daughter. The piece seemed to please, but it wants incident, is barren of invention, and is extremely verbose. It is by Mr. Parselle, and seems to have a French origin, though it wants the usual incident and condensed vivacity of a Parisian piece.

At Drury Lane, Miss Faucit's engagement is drawing to a close. On Thursday was revived Mr. Tom Taylor's clever version of 'Le Roi s'amuse,' called 'The Fool's Revenge,' one of that series of French plays devised during Louis Philippe's reign, to make monarchy odious. Of course, this intention is very much subdued in the translation, but it is sufficiently evident in the outrages which the Court Fool undergoes. The part of *Bertuccio*, the Fool, is admirably played by Mr. Phelps, who mingles buffoonery and tragedy and simulated mirth and unmitigated malignity in a wonderful manner. It is one of his strongest character parts. The theatre closes on Saturday week until Easter Monday, when 'Comus' is to be produced on a very grand scale of pictorial, musical, and 'sensational' illustration.

At the Haymarket, the 'Woman in Mauve' continues, notwithstanding the correspondence between Mr. Boucicault and Mr. Buckstone as to the disturbance on the first night of its performance. There was little need, we take it, for formal disclaimer or a caustic correspondence, for no one really supposed a clever dramatist and successful manager, such as Mr. Boucicault undoubtedly is, would be guilty of such malignant folly.

At the Lyceum, Mademoiselle Beatrice continues to play *Mrs. Haller*, and Mr. Emery *Robert Macaire*. At Easter, Mr. Fechter returns to play *Belphegor*, the sentimental clown, in a version prepared for him by Mr. Palgrave Simpson.

Miss Bateman takes leave of the Adelphi on Saturday week.



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